



COMING CLOSER! Athens under snow yesterday as a depression between Crete and Cyprus brings freezing weather to Greece and Turkey and the promise of snow to hilly regions here (see pages 2 and 3).

Hizbullah tells Syria to lay off

BEIRUT. — A senior official of the pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God), which other militias have accused of holding foreign hostages, has told Syria not to move into South Beirut's suburbs where kidnap victims are believed held.

The official, Abbas Musawi, also warned against disarming the group's militants.

"Our weapons will remain in our hands and we will not allow anyone to disarm us in the Bek'aa, the south or Beirut," Abbas Musawi said yesterday.

He was speaking in the southern Lebanese port of Tyre at one of three rallies to honour 18 Hizbullah militants killed by Syrian troops when Damascus cracked down on militia gunlaw in Moslem west Beirut last month.

The Syrians so far have stayed clear of the Shi'ite Moslem suburbs, where some of the 27 foreigners missing in Lebanon are believed held.

Hizbullah, thought to have around 2,000 regular fighters, has denied kidnapping or holding foreigners.

Jerusalem Post Correspondent David Horowitz reports from London that Syrian forces in Beirut are also reported running into increasing (Continued on Page 3)

Parents up in arms over schooling levy

By BERNARD JOSEPHS and LEA LEVAVI

Furious parents yesterday declared war on a scheme to have them make up for huge cuts in the education budget and, in effect, subsidize teachers' salaries.

In a protest telegram to Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, the National Parents Association condemned the planned levy and warned that it would do all in its power to block it.

"We already pay extra so that our son's school can have classes of less than 40 students," said one Jerusalem parent yesterday. "We can't afford any more. So-called free education is a joke."

The parents' anger was sparked by the agreement late on Sunday night between the Treasury and the Education Ministry over teachers' pay.

After days of disruptions by high school teachers, who have not received their February salaries, the Treasury agreed to find the NIS 30 million needed — but on condition that the money be returned from funds raised from parents.

The Knesset has already been asked to approve a NIS 64m. levy on parents to make up for the shortfall in the education budget. Now the fee will total more than NIS 100m.

Education Ministry officials said yesterday that the agreement will mean a big rise in parents' contributions above the original forecast of between NIS 100 and NIS 410 a month, depending on family income.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

High Court ruling on Nakash today

The High Court of Justice is to rule today on petitions filed two months ago against Justice Minister Avraham Shari's decision not to extradite William Nakash to France where he has been convicted of murder.

In its response to the petition filed by Knesset members from the

Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam and from 11 Hebrew University professors, the court has three options: to rule that Shari's decision is legal and to order the release of Nakash; to instruct Shari to extradite Nakash; to send the case back to Shari for reconsideration. (Itim)

Broad Labour-Likud consensus forming on closed Pollard probe

Knesset insisting on the facts

Senior Labour and Likud MKs are seeking to empower the Knesset's closed-door subcommittee on intelligence to be the forum which should investigate the handling of the Pollard affair.

This new direction began to take shape yesterday after Prime Minister Shamir told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that they should regard the issue as "closed."

Committee chairman Abba Eban countered by declaring that while this might be the government's position, it was not the prevailing view in the Knesset.

"It is our right and our duty to investigate and to supervise the actions of the government," Eban said. He added that after consulting with senior members of both parties, the committee reserved the right to summon

"anyone we see fit — both ministers and civil servants."

The first person to be summoned will be Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who has been asked to appear before the committee on Thursday.

Last night Shamir said that Eban had no authority to summon whichever officials he wished to testify before the committee. Israel Radio reported. A subcommittee would receive a report on the affair, the prime minister said.

In Washington, the White House said yesterday that overall American-Israeli relations would not be impaired by the affair. But the administration is said to be planning imminent indictment of three more Israeli officials, in connection with the spy scandal, a move which could further strain relations.

Washington: 'Scandal won't undermine ties with Israel'

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration yesterday said that the Jonathan Jay Pollard spy scandal will not be allowed to undermine the overall fabric of U.S.-Israeli relations.

At the same time, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned, the administration is moving very quickly to indict the three Israeli officials who earlier had been granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for their testimony against Pollard. Those indictments, U.S. sources said, could come as soon as this week.

"Our relationship with Israel is long and strong, and is based on a myriad of strategic and mutual interests, and that will not change," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters when asked whether the U.S. would reduce its \$3 billion a year foreign aid appropriation for Israel as a result of the Pollard affair.

But Fitzwater, like other U.S. spokesmen, sought to underline the seriousness of the case by noting that last week's indictment of Israeli Air Force officer Aviem Sela by a federal grand jury "is the most eloquent description of our attitude" toward him. "U.S. officials do not do business with people who are under indictment in the U.S.," he said.

The three Israelis about to be indicted on espionage charges are Rafael Eitan, who was in overall charge of the unit "running" Pollard; Yosef Yagur, who was science counselor at the Israel consulate in New York; and Irit Erb, who was secretary to the science counselor at the Israel Embassy in Washington.

American officials said Israel was responsible for breaking the agreement. They noted that the Israeli officials first violated that agreement by providing "false and misleading" testimony to the U.S. prosecutors who visited Israel in December 1985. The immunity had been granted on condition that the three "fully cooperate" with the investigation against Pollard.

Fitzwater refused to comment on the reaction of the Israel government to Pollard's life sentence and (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Shamir raps 'hysteria' over affair

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent and Jerusalem Post Staff

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said there was a risk of hysteria in Israel, over the Pollard espionage affair, infecting the U.S. and causing harm to Israel there.

Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that the Pollard affair ought not to be exploited in a way that could undermine Israel's vital ties with the U.S., or for the purpose of winning domestic political advantage.

Following expressions of concern over the implications of the Pollard affair by committee chairman Abba Eban, Shamir rebuked him in a circumlocutory manner. He said: "Certain people generate echoes when they speak, and hence they should think twice before making a declaration. The watchword should be: Silence is golden." He did not refer to Eban by name.

Shamir, who had been invited to the committee meeting to report on his visit to the U.S. and not to talk about the Pollard affair, charged that Israelis had a self-destructive streak in their nature, which Knesset Members especially, ought to suppress. "The pastime of black prophecy should be abandoned," the prime minister said.

Shamir said that the subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, which is concerned with intelligence services,

would get "all the briefings and all the answers."

He pleaded: "The affair is complicated enough as it is. Please don't make it even more complicated."

Shamir said that during his U.S. visit he was not asked even once about the Pollard affair when he met with congressional or Jewish leaders, and only very occasionally when he met with journalists. After Pol-

lard was sentenced, he admitted, the issue gained momentum.

He claimed that there was "almost no precedent in international relations for the degree of cooperation which Israel extended to the U.S. in its probe of the affair. We went to the limit to clear it up and now the Pollard affair is closed," he said. "I did not get the feeling while in the U.S. that anybody criticized my stand. Relations between Israel and the U.S. are so intimate that affairs like Irangate and Pollard will not cause significant erosion."

In the brief discussion, a Likud member of the committee, Eliahu Ben Elissar, differed with his party chief. "The Pollard affair has caused Israel serious harm in the U.S.," he said. "Either the prime minister has not told us what he really thinks, or he is inordinately optimistic."

Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) said that Shamir pleaded he "did not know" at the time of the Sabra and Shatila Beirut refugee camp affair, during the Ashkelon bus hijackers' killing, and lately over Iran and over Pollard.

Sarid said: "That's a lot of not-knowing for one man, especially a prime minister."

Rafael Eitan (Teiyya) warned that "the storm over the Pollard affair had only just begun." He said it would lead to a chain reaction which would make it most embarrassing for any Israeli leader due to be sent to (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

Fourth survivor-witness fingers Ivan

By ERNIE MEYER

Jerusalem Post Reporter Yehiel Meir Rajzman was yesterday the fourth survivor-witness to identify John Demjanjuk, as Treblinka death camp guard Ivan the Terrible, as the war crimes trial entered its fourth week.

Rajzman, 72, had come all the way from Uruguay to give his testimony, which paralleled that of his predecessors. Speaking in Yiddish, he said: "I will talk in the name of my sister and all the other victims who can't talk."

Born in Lodz into a family of six children, Rajzman lived in several ghettos before he and his sister were taken to Treblinka in the autumn of 1942. His sister was immediately gassed and he was assigned to a work detail.

Rajzman related how, on the second day at the camp, as he was



DEMJANJUK ON TRIAL

sorting the victims' clothing, he came upon his sister's dress and cut a piece off it, which he kept for a long time.

In a tearful aside he told how on the cattle train to the camp he had persuaded his sister to board her bread, because the journey might be long. "But the trip was relatively short, and I can never forgive myself for causing my sister to die hungry," he said.

Being assigned to the team of prisoners cutting the women's hair before they were gassed, he described how the job had to be done with five cuts of the scissors. He worked only three days at this job,

but observed some remarkable scenes.

One woman asked him to proceed slowly with her, because she knew that her daughter was not far behind her in line, and she wanted to die together with her. But Rajzman was unable to grant even this small favour, since the guards beat him to make him hasten his pace.

Another woman under his scissors told him: "I see that some young people have a chance to stay alive; perhaps my son will be able to avenge my death."

Rajzman also described the near-hysterical laughter of a young girl, who shouted to her naked fellow-

victims: "Shame on you for weeping; don't let them see that we are afraid to go to our death."

Rajzman later worked at carrying corpses from the gas chamber to the burial pits. "I asked a friend, Dr. Zimmerman, to give me poison, but he didn't have any. I didn't have the courage to hang myself." The witness eventually became a "dentist," one of the prisoners assigned to break gold teeth out of the mouths of the corpses.

For working too slowly at his job, he was on one occasion punished with 25 lashes and on another punished with 70. "Dr. Zimmerman cleaned my wounds and the next day I was back at work," he said.

It was in connection with this work that he told the gruesome story of how Ivan the Terrible one day drilled a hole into the backside of a prisoner named Finkelstein and warned him that: "If you scream, I'll kill you."

At this juncture, Rajzman stood up and identified John Demjanjuk as Ivan the Terrible.

"Ivan was the real Satan of Treblinka," Rajzman said. He described how one day the Ukrainian guard was driving a horse-drawn wagon loaded with supplies into the Lower Camp. But when he saw a group of Jews being driven towards the gas chambers, he abandoned his horse and wagon, ran to his shed to get his long iron pipe and joined the other guards in beating and torturing the victims.

"Many of the people were so severely injured and beaten that they seemed almost willing to enter the gas chambers," he said.

Rajzman will complete his testimony (Continued on Page 9)

Three of four leftists being prosecuted for meeting with PLO representatives in Romania wait outside the Ramle court on the first day of their trial. From left to right: Eliezer Feiler, Latif Dori and Reuven Kaminer.

(Andre Bruttman)

Leftists who met PLO go on trial

By MENACHEM SHALEV

Jerusalem Post Reporter Four leftists who met with PLO officials in Romania yesterday denied the charges brought against them under the law forbidding contact with members of "terror organizations."

The trial of the four — Yael Lotan, Reuven Kaminer, Eliezer Feiler and Latif Dori — opened at Ramle's Magistrate Court yesterday. They are the first persons to be accused of violating the amendment to the Terror Prevention Ordinance passed by

the Knesset in August.

The four denied the facts contained in the charge sheet. They were only willing to concede clause 9 of the sheet — that they were, indeed, "citizens and residents of the State of Israel."

Outside the small and packed courtroom, police tried to separate two scuffling groups of demonstrators. Those for the accused shouted "negotiations with the PLO today," while their adversaries, mainly Kach activists, had already reached a verdict: "A rope for the traitors," they

shouted. Police arrested one demonstrator from each group, but released them shortly thereafter.

Attorney Amnon Zichroni tried to change the trial venue from Ramle to Tel Aviv. He failed to persuade Judge Avraham Baizer that the court lacks jurisdiction. Baizer ruled that his court had jurisdiction since part of the alleged offences were committed at Ben-Gurion Airport and because one of the accused, Feiler, lived near Netanya in an area under the Ramle (Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)



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AMSTERDAM	-4	25	1	Clear		
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BUEENOS AIRES	15	29	23	Clear		
CHICAGO	8	41	23	Clear		
COPENHAGEN	-4	25	0	Clear		
FRANKFURT	-5	23	2	Clear		
GENEVA	-3	27	2	Clear		
Helsinki	-2	16	-2	Clear		
HONGKONG	22	72	25	Cloudy		
JOHANNESBURG	15	29	27	Clear		
LISBON	12	54	18	Clear		
LONDON	4	48	10	Clear		
MADRID	1	34	17	Clear		
MONTREAL	-1	30	8	Clear		
NEW YORK	12	54	22	Clear		
OSLO	-7	19	-2	Clear		
PARIS	1	34	7	Clear		
RODEZANEIRO	21	70	33	Cloudy		
SAO PAULO	19	64	24	Cloudy		
STOCKHOLM	-9	16	-2	Clear		
TOKYO	4	39	32	Cloudy		
TORONTO	1	34	18	Clear		
VIENNA	-11	6	19	Clear		
ZURICH	-3	27	2	Clear		

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Intermittent showers in the North and central part of country.

	Yesterday's	Today's	Humidity	Min.	Max.
Jerusalem	20	2-10	7		
Golan	28	2-9	6		
Nahariya	24	1-5	3		
Salaf	24	1-5	3		
Haifa Port	62	4-17	14		
Thessalon	46	4-11	9		
Nazareth	57	6-15	13		
Afula	52	4-12	13		
Shomron	48	4-12	9		
Tel Aviv	28	7-15	14		
B-G Airport	42	8-19	17		
Jericho	46	7-17	15		
Gaza	16	4-18	17		
Beer Sheva	24	8-21	20		
Eilat					

Snow in the mountains

By ANDY COURT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The clouds that dumped snow on Istanbul and Athens probably won't reach Jerusalem but the weatherman predicts that snow may fall in other high parts of the country either tonight or tomorrow.

Snow here will fall mainly in the mountains in the north and the high parts of the country's center, according to Israel's Meteorological Service at Beit Dagan. Places more than 1,000 metres above sea level have a chance of getting snow, the meteorologist said. Jerusalem, at about 800 metres, probably will not be affected.

LEVY

(Continued from Page One)

The ministry is to present its revised figures tomorrow to the Knesset Finance Committee, several of whose members are opposed to any levy. Ministry sources warned that the higher fee may not be approved by the Knesset - which would cause the whole payment scheme to collapse.

In a telegram to Navon, the National Parents Association said that while teachers must be paid, this could not be done by presenting parents with the bill.

They pointed out that they had already recommended that demands for the proposed fee be rejected, and warned that with the levy now likely to be increased, protests would take an even stronger form.

The parents said they would lobby MKs to vote against the levy when it comes before the Knesset for approval.

The fee was also condemned by the chairman of the Knesset Education Committee, MK Nahman Raz, who described Sunday's agreement between the Education Ministry and the Treasury as confusing the issue and "unrealistic." He forecast that the fee proposal would face stiff opposition in the Knesset.

Tomorrow - HAGA (Civil Defence) Exercise in Beit Shean

Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, there will be a HAGA exercise in Beit Shean. The police, Magen David Adom personnel and the fire brigade will take part in the exercise, in addition to municipal emergency workers. Sirens and the sound of explosions will be heard during the exercise. In the event of a real attack, the sirens will sound a rising and falling note.

LEGENDS OF SAFED



By DOV SILVERMAN

HOME NEWS

Rabbinical courts

Hammer hopes improvements to give a 'more human face'

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The rabbinical courts, where many secular Israelis have their only contact with observant Judaism, can be a place where one learns to love Tora or where one learns to despise religion.

The latter is more often the case. Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer suggested yesterday, without saying it in so many words. He told a press conference in Jerusalem that he hopes that administrative improvements will give the courts a more human face.

Claiming that the problem lies not in the *dayanim* (rabbinical court judges), but in the procedure they are forced to follow, Hammer suggested that the standard three-judge session could often be handled by a

single judge. The minister noted that judges now record their own cases and would be less pressured if provided with a special recorder.

The bulk of the courts' cases deal with divorce, and Hammer would have other, special courts to deal with such matters as civil arbitration (by consent of both parties). A special court would also deal with what Hammer described as "exceptional conversion cases," in which would-be converts have waited long periods without their conversion being approved.

The *dayanim* are not always as disciplined as they should be, Hammer indicated, saying he would also provide for regional court presidents, who would both deal with this matter and attempt to ease the administrative flow of court cases.

A preliminary committee of social scientists, including a woman, would interview couples facing divorce proceedings, in an attempt to alleviate their suffering. Hammer said that his office is drawing up a list of women whose husbands have refused to divorce them for years and would make a special effort to solve these cases.

Hammer explained that the proposals which he is submitting as a proposed law to the Knesset are not related to the far more controversial proposed "Rabbinical Courts Law," which would greatly extend the authority of the rabbinical courts. Formally, at least, Hammer backs this bill, although he apparently sees little hope of its being passed.

"These procedures are something that everyone (in the Knesset) can vote for with no problem," he said.

5 Orthodox MKs vote against government on dayanim issue

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

Five Orthodox MKs voted no-confidence in the government yesterday following calls for action against a group of religious court judges (*dayanim*) who advocated flouting the High Court.

Although three of the MKs - former interior minister Yitzhak Peretz, Deputy Social Affairs Minister Rafael Finhasi (both of Shas) and Menahem Porush (Agudat Yisrael) - are members of the ruling national unity coalition, no political fall-out is expected.

Observers in the Knesset widely agree that it is not in the interests of the Likud, the Alignment or the ultra-Orthodox parties to press the issue further.

Shas sources, who for several weeks have been promising an imminent ruling from their spiritual mentor, Rabbi Schach, on their continuing in the government, were no more definite yesterday.

The National Religious Party hedged its bets. None of its members was in the plenum for the vote, although Avner Shiki spoke in the debate over the *dayanim's* call to flout the High Court decision in the case of reform convert Shoshana Miller.

Explaining its stand on the motion raised by Morasha's Avraham Verdiger, the NRP said in a communiqué that the *dayanim's* clarification of their pronouncement, made on Sunday, must be seen as closing the issue.

But, the NRP insisted, the religious court judges had the same right as civil court judges to express their professional opinion, and hence their halachic stand, on every contemporary issue. There had been nothing wrong in the *dayanim's* statement that the only authority they accept on matters of conversion is that of the halacha, the communal code.

Since it now appeared that there was no truth in rumours that the *dayanim* were to be questioned - in a possible legal move against them - the party would not vote no-confidence in the government.

But neither was it prepared for a brazen confrontation with the other religious parties.

The thrust of the debate on Verdiger's motion was the source of the authority that the *dayanim* enjoy.

Almost all secular speakers made the point that, like the civil courts, the rabbinical courts draw their authority from the Knesset.

But what was also stressed was the

fallacy at the heart of both Verdiger's argument and the declaration of the *dayanim*.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu, who replied for the government, pointed out that the High Court had confined itself to one technical point in the Miller case: the legality of the interior minister's proposal to make a special notation when registering converts as Jews in their identity cards. That, the court had ruled, had no legal basis.

Despite Verdiger's further claim that the authorities permitted civil court judges to get away with what he termed "outrageous" statements, while it clamped down hard on rabbinical judges' utterances, Corfu insisted that the two judicial systems were identical. Both, he stressed, were equally bound to guard the honour of the courts and respect for justice.

No decision had yet been taken on whether to prosecute all or any of the *dayanim* who had spoken against the High Court ruling, said Corfu. Attorney-General Yosef Harish and Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer were discussing the issue. (Hammer was largely instrumental in winning Sunday's partial back-down by the *dayanim*.)

its role in "handling" Pollard. "The Israeli leaders who recruited him to betray his country, or who had guilty knowledge of his recruitment, dealt a terrible blow to the security of Israel by jeopardizing its relationship with its superpower ally," he wrote. "Jewish Americans feel doubly betrayed."

SCANDAL

just won't comment on Israel's responsibilities.

In *The New York Times*, the normally very pro-Israel columnist William Safire yesterday lashed out against the Israel government for

SHAMIR

Eban said: "An aura of special tension accompanies everything to do with Israel, in the U.S. today. There is a mood of distrust among ordinary citizens, in the national establishment and even inside some trade unions."

"The celebrations over the appointment of Sella to command a new Air Force base kindled a bonfire of anger, because it reflected an almost impudent lack of consideration on Israel's part, which may well have exerted some influence in the judicial process related to the Pollards."

"If citizens who have no official authorization can conduct the sort of private intelligence project which they did without being called to account by the government, then the Knesset, whose duty it is to supervise the government, has to step in."

"A statement of the sort that 'the affair is closed' is but one more headline to fan the flames in the U.S. The fact that the government of Israel will not hold an enquiry does not obligate the Knesset and this committee to refrain from holding an enquiry."

Hint of change in Soviet policy?

By ROBERT ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Two key officials in Moscow indicated at the weekend that Soviet citizens denied exit visas on the ground of knowing "state secrets" may be dealt with more leniently.

Soviet Jewish sources here doubted that the hint of change was related to the hunger strikes of dozens of mothers in the Soviet Union and in Jerusalem who have been protesting against their separation from their children. The hunger strike in Jerusalem was called off on Sunday after six elderly participants fainted.

The two officials who indicated change may be in the air were the director of the Moscow office of Ovir, which issues visas, and Nikolai Makarov, deputy director of the visa department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The Ovir official had a signed article in Friday's issue of the daily *Moscow Evening*, which said "arbitrary decisions" had been made about the secrecy restriction.

"Extremely unusual" is how one source in Israel described the admission. According to Jewish sources in the Soviet Union, the Foreign Ministry official spoke on Friday with mothers on hunger strike and told

them that applications for visas that had been turned down on grounds of "state secrecy" were being re-examined.

Meanwhile, in Geneva, dissident Soviet physicist Yuri Orlov said on Saturday that despite the new approach of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, significant violations of human rights continue in the Soviet Union.

Also at the weekend, Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur warned that certain government leaders, in their zeal to paint the USSR as Israel's mortal enemy in the debate over an international peace conference, could be blocking progress on increasing Soviet Jewish emigration. Tsur was addressing a national conference of the Association of Immigrants from the Soviet Union.

"During the current period of internal change in the USSR, for the government of Israel to present itself as an enemy of the Soviet Union is a



A cyclist takes to the air to the delight of 10,000 pupils and soldiers who attended the seventh annual Orienteering day yesterday in the Ben-Shimon forest outside of Tel Aviv. The event, which requires participants to find their way in the wilderness with a compass and a map, was attended by Defence Minister Rabin. (Scoop 88)

Rabin postpones discussion on Lavi

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has postponed discussion on the Lavi's future, leading to speculation that the matter will be decided after Aluf Dan Shomron becomes chief of general staff.

The general staff's proposal to scrap the Lavi programme and buy F-16Cs instead and use remaining funds for other procurement and development projects is still

being examined by Rabin's aides, a well-placed source told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The discussion with Rabin had been scheduled for next week.

The defence establishment is also likely to wait for the U.S. Senate report on the Lavi.

The decision on the Lavi programme will thus probably be taken after April 19, when Shomron takes over from Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy.

Druse woman hurt in riot dies of wounds

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rayil Farhad, 50, a resident of the Druse village of Bukata in the Golan, died of her wounds last night at Rambam Hospital. She had been shot during riots in the village on Sunday.

An uneasy quiet reigned in Golan Heights Druse villages last night following Sunday's troubles in which 10 policemen were injured.

LEFTISTS

(Continued from Page One)

court's jurisdiction.

Zichroni then tried to persuade Baizer that the case should be dismissed. He said that the original aim of the Terror Prevention ordinance had been to combat the Lehi underground. He argued that the term "contact," as used in the law, should convey "support." "Otherwise," he said, "even if I meet them and say that the PLO is a 'group of murderers,' as former prime minister Begin called them, I am still committing an offence."

Zichroni himself travelled with the group of 29 leftists to the November conference attended by low-ranking PLO officials in Costinesti, Romania but did not participate in the actual meetings.

Attorney Avigdor Feldman, also for the defence, said that the charge sheet was not detailed enough. He said that if the prosecution's view prevails, "then if I have a car accident with a PLO official in Honolulu, and I ask him for insurance details, I have committed an offence."

Police prosecutor Rav Pakad Ra'anon Ben-Yosef countered the preliminary arguments of Zichroni and Feldman by stating that, according to the law, "the mere establishment of contact constitutes the offence." "It is not important," he said, "what was said at the meeting or, in fact, if anything was said at all."

The offences attributed to the accused carry a maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment.

Comments made by the defence yesterday indicate that it plans to conduct a "political" line of defence. Thus they will attack the government's declaration of the existence of a "state of emergency," in force since 1948. They will also try to prove that the PLO is an umbrella organization comprised of various groups, only some of which engage in terror, and therefore cannot be defined as a "terror organization."

Court awards damages for divorce accord violation

HAIFA (Itim). - A divorce agreement has legal authority and if one of the parties violates it, the other can sue for damages, even if such an agreement has no standing in Jewish law. This decision was handed down recently by Judge David Katzir in the Haifa District Court who pointed out that it did not conform with the precedent-making decision of the Supreme Court in 1966.

The Supreme Court then ruled that violation of a divorce agreement did not give the offended party grounds for a damages claim. A divorce agreement is like any other contract, Judge Katzir said. The party who violates it can be sued.

Judge Katzir was ruling in the case of a Haifa woman who claimed that her husband had violated such an agreement. The agreement received legal standing when the Haifa District Court recognized it as part of the husband's obligation to pay for the support of their young son.

But when the man did not appear in the Rabbinical Court on the day he was supposed to give his wife the divorce, she sued him for damages in the district court.

The husband argued unsuccessfully that he had been pressured to sign the divorce agreement, since otherwise he would not be allowed to see his son. He also maintained that the agreement had no authority in Jewish law, because Jewish law allows either party to change his mind as long as the divorce has not been granted.

Sex harassment suspect out on bail

TEL AVIV (Itim). - Aharon Teitelman, a senior adviser to the tourism minister who is suspected of sexual harassment and obstruction of justice, was yesterday ordered released on bail by the magistrates' court here.

Teitelman, 50, a Rishon LeZion resident, is suspected of sexually exploiting employees and of trying to obstruct the police investigation. He was released on NIS 7,000 bail after agreeing to stay out of his office for the next 15 days, refrain from contacting any other suspects in the case, and refrain from contacting any Tourism Ministry workers with the exception of the minister, the director-general and the spokesman.

Teitelman was also required to deposit his passport with police and remain available for questioning.

The police are still investigating the case but did not object to his release.

Jordan likes port in Gaza Strip

Post Middle East Staff

The Jordanian government would like to see the development of a commercial port in the Gaza Strip, Jordanian Minister of Occupied Territories Marwan Duda said yesterday.

Duda told Radio Monte Carlo that Amman was ready to study the feasibility of the project in response to a request from Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who met with the minister last week.

"The project, if materialized, will increase import-export operations in Gaza, and will help the citizens to make their transactions more profitably and speedily, without any recourse to the Israeli ports," Duda said.

Israel's civil administration, however, is in the final stages of completing an UN agency-sponsored plan for the development of a small boat marina and fishing port.

Nudel's sister on hunger strike

Jerusalem Post Staff

For the third consecutive day, Ilana Friedman yesterday staged a hunger strike opposite the Soviet Embassy in Vienna on behalf of her sister, Ida Nudel, the famous former Prisoner of Zion who has been denied an exit visa for 15 years.

In Paris, the Women's Committee for Soviet Jews yesterday demonstrated outside the Soviet Embassy there in support of the 75 Jewish women who have been fasting for three days in nine cities throughout the USSR. The fast is a protest against the authorities' refusal to let their families emigrate to Israel.

In Paris, a delegation of protesters was invited into the embassy and received by an official "who gave his name as Gennady Lutay," said Evelyn Ascot.

Our beloved mother

RENEE KERSNER

has passed away after a long illness.

A very brave lady and an inspiration to us all.

Deeply mourned by all her children, her brother, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ben Porat, Efron, Eldor, Feingold, and Kersner Families

In profound sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear mother and grandmother

SARA (Sarina) BEN-TOB

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, 1987, at 1 p.m., at the Herzliya cemetery (Rehov Pinsker).

We shall meet near the entrance.

Shiva at the Sharon Hotel, Herzliya Pituah.

The bereaved: Renee Weissenberg and family - Jerusalem
Jacqueline and Aubrey Levy and family - London
Meir Ben-Tob and family - Montreal

Emergency funds for survivors, families

UK launches own probe into Channel ferry disaster

LONDON. - The government yesterday announced a public inquiry into the Channel ferry disaster and said it was donating £1 million to a fund for bereaved families and survivors of the accident that took 134 lives.

Transport Secretary John Moore, announcing the format of the investigation to the House of Commons, also thanked the Belgian people for their "extraordinary courage, efficiency and care." He praised the British rescue workers who helped to save hundreds of lives after the Friday night accident outside Zeebrugge harbour.

Peninsular and Orient, parent company of Townsend Thoresen, yesterday set aside £250,000 to meet what it called "immediate personal needs" of passengers involved in the disaster and said advertisements in national newspapers would provide details on how to lodge claims.

Belgium also is conducting a full inquiry and has begun questioning witnesses and surviving passengers and crew.

Moore said the British investigation would be headed by Admiralty Judge Sir Barry Sheen. "It will be for

the formal investigation to investigate the causes of this disaster and make recommendations to ensure that all possible lessons are learned," he said.

Preliminary reports suggest the cause "was an inrush of water through the bow loading doors," Moore said, but there was no evidence to suggest a fundamental fault in the design of the ship.

Mounting evidence indicated the huge loading doors were not closed properly, and the shipowners say the crewman responsible for shutting them is "blaming himself." Lawyers for the crewman said yesterday however, that he was at no time responsible for operation of the doors.

Off Zeebrugge, salvage yesterday prepared to raise the half-submerged Herald of Free Enterprise, lying on its port side outside the harbour, a spokesman said.

Oliver Vanneste, the Governor of West Flanders province, said 409 people survived the capsizing, 81 were missing and that 53 bodies had been recovered. So far, 26 victims have been identified by relatives and Vanneste said he would consider

releasing their identities.

The 81 missing are believed trapped inside the ferry and presumed dead. The death toll of 134 is the worst accident in modern times involving an English Channel ferry.

President Chaim Herzog yesterday cabled condolences to Queen Elizabeth II following last weekend's British car ferry disaster.

"Our hearts go out to the families who have lost their dear ones in this disaster," Herzog wrote.

Condolences were also sent by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Belgian authorities have also stepped up efforts to recover a cargo of highly toxic chemicals on board the wreck. Environment Minister Miel Smit said yesterday it was "absolutely essential" to recover 61 drums of cyanide-based solution and an unspecified amount of other substances from the vessel.

A net has been thrown across the gaping front doors of the roll-on, roll-off ferry to prevent any drums from rolling out. (AP, Reuters).



Grieving relatives sit by one of six children killed in Mardin Province, southeast Turkey, by suspected Kurdish separatists Sunday. Two adults were also killed in the attack. Anadolu news agency reported.

Mount Everest may not be the highest

LOS ANGELES (AP). - Mount Everest may lose the title of the world's highest peak to a remote Himalayan cousin if preliminary results from a high-tech survey method are verified, an expedition leader says.

The peak, which has the unglamorous name of K2, was measured last summer by the American K2 expedition and may be as much as 275 metres taller than its previous stated height of 8,616 metres, expedition leader Lance Owens said.

That would make the peak more than 30 metres taller than Everest's 8,853 metres, he said.

"I guess if K2 is one inch higher than Everest, it means that everybody's been climbing the wrong mountain," Owens said last week.

"I think a lot of mountaineers would prefer that K2 be the highest mountain because, for most, it's considered the harder mountain to climb."

K2 is located 145 kilometres northwest of Everest in the Karakoram section of the Himalayas along the Pakistan-China border.

Owens' eight-member expedition climbed K2 from May to September of 1986. Heavy snows and avalanche conditions kept them from reaching the top.

But a 68-kilo surveying device called a satellite transit surveyor that was left at the base of the peak homed in on the radio signals of navigational satellites passing overhead and used variations in those signals to judge altitude, Owens said.

Athens, Istanbul under record snow

ATHENS. - Heavy snowfall blanketed the Greek capital yesterday as a record cold wave that has claimed at least 15 lives continued to grip the country.

Across the Aegean Sea in Turkey Istanbul remained at a virtual standstill under snow up to a metre deep after blizzards which Mayor Bedrettin Dalan described as the worst this century.

The authorities ordered government offices closed until tomorrow. Many banks, businesses and schools stayed shut as workers toiled round the clock to keep main roads and supply lines open in this city of 6.5 million people.

Greek officials said the snowfall was the largest registered in the city in the last 30 years. Snow has fallen five of the last six days in Athens, where each winter weather is rare.

About 13 cm of snow was measured on top of the Acropolis hill in central Athens, where temperatures

dipped to minus 2 degrees Celsius.

Police reported five more weather-related fatalities over the weekend, bringing the nation-wide cold-weather death toll to 15 over the last week.

The national weather service said snow and sub-freezing temperatures were expected also today in Athens, central and southern Greece, and many Aegean islands.

Olympic Airways postponed six domestic flights because of snow and ice accumulations on runways at suburban Athens Airport. Delays also were announced on many foreign airline flights.

The second blizzard to hit Istanbul in a week lifted Sunday afternoon and the city's international airport reopened yesterday.

The cold weather was expected to continue until tomorrow, although with little additional snow. (AP, Reuters)

Quakes kill over 100 in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP). - At least 100 people were killed in last week's earthquakes in a jungle region 130 km. east of this Andean capital, a provincial official said yesterday.

Several newspapers reported that the death figure had climbed above 300, but there was no official confirmation of those reports.

News from the jungle region is slow in reaching the capital.

A series of earthquakes that began Thursday night and continued Friday caused an estimated \$700 million in damage in Quito and other areas and ruptured an important oil pipeline. The quakes were followed by hundreds of aftershocks. The latest quake hit early yesterday morning and apparently caused no serious damage.

The pipeline rupture has forced Ecuador - a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries - to suspend oil exports. Oil has accounted for more than 60 per cent of Ecuador's export earnings in recent years.

Ramiro Perez, director of education in Napo province, said at least 100 people were killed when the quakes hit villages scattered around the province, which spreads across the country's eastern Amazon jungle.

HIZBULLAH

(Continued from Page One)

opposition with rumours growing daily of attacks on them.

According to reports filtering back to Britain, gunmen on motorcycles have opened fire on Syrian soldiers on three occasions recently in the Lebanese capital, leading the Syrian Army to ban motorcycles from the streets of west Beirut. The Times yesterday quoted a report of a rocket exploding on the second floor of the King's Hotel, apparently directed at agents of the Syrian Mukhabarrat intelligence.

"This is the beginning," an anonymous caller was reported telling the Lebanese An-Nahar newspaper.

There is also increasing strain along Syria's border with Turkey. In Ankara, Turkish officials yesterday sought to minimize damage in relations with Syria after a Kurdish guerrilla raid near the border in which eight civilians, including five children, were killed.

Less than 24 hours after the attack, Syrian ambassador Abdul Aziz al-Rifai was summoned to the Turkish Foreign Ministry and told that Damascus must tighten security to stop infiltration across the frontier.

Turkey's Interior Minister Yildirim Akbulut hinted Sunday night that Turkey might for the first time take military action against Kurdish bases in Syria. (Reuters)

Cabinet member hits policy

Pretoria plan for blacks 'on rocks'

JOHANNESBURG. - A senior South African cabinet minister says the ruling National Party's (NP) plans for black political rights are "on the rocks" and will not work.

Education Minister Frederik de Klerk's remarks, made to a closed meeting of his supporters in a Pretoria constituency, were published yesterday in the pro-government newspaper Beeld (Image).

His comments were the latest in a series of shocks to rock white politics in the run-up to the May 6 whites-only general election.

"Our theory is on the rocks. (Black) People want a vote where they live," de Klerk was quoted as telling his constituents.

As leader of the NP in Transvaal Province, de Klerk is one of the country's most powerful politicians and is regarded as a possible successor to president P. W. Botha.

His remarks, accepting national political rights for blacks as inevitable, seemed likely to fuel the ferment in white politics, particularly

among Afrikaners.

However, de Klerk yesterday said that the newspaper formerly published by his liberal-thinking brother was overly critical of the government and NP policies.

The brother, Willem de Klerk resigned Sunday as editor of Rapport, the second-largest newspaper in the country, highlighting obvious differences over how supportive of the government the Afrikaans-language press is expected to be during the election campaign.

Three other prominent South Africans who recently broke away from the NP yesterday called for negotiations towards "one South Africa with equal rights, justice and safety for all."

The three, including former South African ambassador to London, Denis Worrall, are standing as independents in key constituencies in May 6 elections. The other two are Esther Lategan, a businesswoman, and former NP parliamentarian, Wynand Malan. (Reuters, AP, AFP).

Aquino pushes reforms to fore of election campaign

BATANGAS (AFP). - President Corason Aquino yesterday launched her elections campaign with a call for the return of all her candidates to forge ahead with reforms.

Aquino did not comment on the right-wing opposition's slate, led by her former defence minister Juan Ponce Enrile, but played up alleged links between her opponents and last year's coup attempts.

The right-wing opposition split Sunday - the final day for filing candidacies - over the formation of the Senate ticket, with Enrile leading one list and allies of deposed

president Ferdinand Marcos another.

The left-wing People's Party has announced that it would field an incomplete ticket for the 24-seat Senate and the 250-seat House of Representatives in the May 11 congressional elections.

Aquino, addressing an estimated 5,000 crowd in this provincial capital in southern Luzon, recalled the various attempted coups against her and said, "Thanks to people power, we were able to stop those who want to bring us back to the dictatorship of Marcos."

Abdallah lawyer quits bar

By Jerusalem Post Correspondent PARIS. - As the scandal concerning Jean-Paul Mazurier keeps growing, the secret agent and first lawyer to Lebanese terrorist Georges Ibrahim Abdallah has decided to resign from the bar.

Last week a book co-written by Mazurier and journalist Laurent Gally, *The Black Agent, a Mole in*

the Abdallah Case, was published in which he confesses to having betrayed the ethics of his profession by acting as the accused's attorney as well as a security agent.

In light of the confession, Abdallah's current counsel, Jacques Verges, in a letter to Justice Minister Alain Chalon called for a retrial. Abdallah was sentenced to life

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Andreotti named to try to form Italian cabinet

ROME (AP). - President Francesco Cossiga yesterday asked Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, a veteran Christian Democrat who has served as premier five times, to try to form a new government.

The Socialists have said they will not accept Andreotti, and believe he is sure to fail.

Andreotti will be seeking to put together Italy's 46th postwar cabinet. He would succeed Bettino Craxi, a Socialist, who resigned last Tuesday due to divisions in the five-party coalition.

Andreotti, 68, said he would aim to form the same five-party coalition that would last through the remainder of the legislature to the spring of 1988. Besides the dominant Christian Democrats and Socialists, the small coalition partners are the Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats.

Norway names new foreign minister

OSLO (AP). - Thorvald Stoltenberg, Deputy Mayor of Oslo and a former defence minister, became Foreign Minister yesterday in Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's Labour Party government.

Stoltenberg, 55, succeeds Knut Frydenlund, who died February 26 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Politically and ideologically, he is considered the same moderate Social Democrat as his predecessor.



Egyptian opposition paper hits streets

CAIRO (Reuters). - The rightwing New Wafd Party yesterday issued Egypt's first daily opposition newspaper in more than three decades to mark the start of campaigning for parliamentary elections on April 6. Opposition newspapers were banned when political parties were dissolved in 1953, but the ban was lifted when the late president Anwar Sadat reintroduced a multi-party system in 1976.

All five of Egypt's legal parties, ranging from extreme left to extreme right, issue weekly editions.

EC donates \$3m. to Lebanon's war victims

BRUSSELS (AP). - The European Commission yesterday announced it is granting another 2.7 million ECUs (\$3m.) in food, medical equipment and sanitary equipment to Palestinian refugees and other people, victims of the internal strife in Lebanon.

The funds will go to UN relief agencies and the International Red Cross for distribution in Lebanon. They are in addition to 1.4m. ECUS (\$1.6m.) given over the past three months to victims of the civil war in Lebanon.

Libya-Chad peace bid

KHARTOUM (AP). - Sudan, which early this year began trying to mediate the conflict between Libya and Chad, announced yesterday that peace talks are under way in Khartoum between the neighboring north African enemies. Prime Minister Sadek el-Mahdi confirmed a newspaper report that negotiations had been going on for two days.

PLO fund leaves Jordan

The National Palestinian Fund, an agency that administers PLO funds, has been moved from Amman to Abu Dhabi, Agency France-Presse reported. Observers said the move reflects the failure of tentative efforts to heal a PLO-Jordanian rift.



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Open letter to Moscow

Dear Professor Ziv,

When we met at the Human Rights Commission at Geneva, you as part of the Soviet delegation and I as a representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (a non-governmental organization), you told me that you hoped "that with the new mood we will find ourselves coming closer," a reference to your most welcome assertion that the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration was in the process of considerable change. You also remarked, in connection with my own published articles on Soviet Jewry: "I hope with the changing situation your articles will also change."

The frankness of your comments encourages me to reply in similar vein. No one welcomes more than I do the changes which have already occurred, or would welcome with considerable enthusiasm the developments which you indicated were only at a beginning. Clearly, it would be quite wrong for someone like myself, who has been so critical of Soviet policy towards Jewish emigration in the past, not to give acknowledgement to what has occurred in recent months.

It would be churlish for me not to give the fullest possible public recognition, for example, to the emigration three months ago of Ben and Tanya Bogomolny (who appeared in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the "most patient" refuseniks); or to the emigration two months ago of the former Jewish prisoner, Yuri Tarnopolsky and his family (I met his wife in Leningrad in August 1985 and vividly

recall her pain at the time because of her husband's incarceration). Likewise, the release from labour camp last month of Roald Zelichenok and Dr. Yosef Begun is applauded by men of goodwill everywhere. As a friend of both Galina Zelichenok and Inna Begun, I know from first hand their anguish at the imprisonment and isolation of their husbands.

To release two Jews from labour camp well before their sentences expire is of course an act which must be applauded; as is the emigration of a third prisoner, Zahar Zushine, which you said would occur in the first week of March; but you would be the first to be surprised if I did not at the same time issue two points of caution. First, as you and I know all too well, both Mr. Zelichenok and Dr. Begun were only given their labour camp sentences in the first place because of their part in the Jewish emigration movement: both want to live in Israel, not in Leningrad or Moscow where they are now. Second, there are still, as I write this letter, seven Jews being held in labour camp, whose sole aim is to live in Israel, including the Hebrew teachers Ari Volvovskiy, Yosef Bereshteyn, and Alexsei Magarik, as well as a personal friend of mine, Vladimir Lifshitz.



While such men remain in labour camp, you will know understand why I feel the need to temper rejoicing with caution. This is not to say that I do not hope for further change, or that I will not appreciate (and praise) it when it comes. But Jewish history teaches us, and you and I are both products of that history, that to be silent in the face of repression, even with the promise of an end to repression, is to abandon one of our life-saving precepts, that all Israel are responsible one for the other. This is a central precept of our so often tormented history; and we are looking, when all is said and done, at the future not only of a few hundred Jews, but perhaps even of several hundreds of thousands who may wish to leave one country for another, one of the historic processes in the broad spectrum of current Jewish history.

You have appealed for a credit of confidence in the changes now in progress. Certainly whatever the Soviet Union does in a positive way is recognized, and is a cause for gratitude, and indeed rejoicing. But of the 500 Jews who were, you

yourself told us in December, to receive their exit visas, I note that only 98 actually received their visas in January and 146 in February. If this figure is to be averaged out month by month, many thousands who have waited for their exit visas for many years, will be disappointed, as indeed are those who, in these two months, have again been refused their exit visas. If however, the figures for January and February are to be the base for an ever improving projection, then much of past writing and disapproval may be redeemed. As your own Russian proverb puts it, "One cannot catch a flea until it jumps" or, in our British parlance, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

Every reader of these words will have his or her own yardstick, as you will, to determine whether a change is real. You will allow me to tell you my yardstick, which is inevitably a personal one, yet which covers many different categories of Jews who have hitherto been refused their exit visas, some for many years. As an historian, I have one luxury in every book I write: the dedication. Fourteen Soviet Jews have appeared on my various dedication pages in the past eight years. As yet, only one has received his exit visa. In 1979 my *Jews of Russia* atlas was dedi-

cated to Anatoly Sharansky, Ida Nudel and Vladimir Slepak. As you know, Ida Nudel and Vladimir Slepak, both of whom are former prisoners, more than 16 years after they first applied, are still being refused exit visas.

In 1983 my *Finest Hour* volume of the Churchill biography was dedicated to two friends of mine, Yuli Kosharovskiy of Moscow and Aba Taratuta of Leningrad: both are still refuseniks, Kosharovskiy for 16 years, Taratuta for 12. They and their families have been unable so far to get a positive response to their repeated applications.

I was encouraged when you told me in Geneva that you read my biographical works; perhaps the changes of which you spoke will enable me to make a note in the next edition that these exit visas have now been granted.

In 1985 I dedicated the third edition of my *Jewish History Atlas* to Gregory Vasserman of Leningrad, whose combination of religious enthusiasm and desire to live in Israel so impressed me on the two occasions when we met. Also in 1985, my illustrated history *Jerusalem, Rebirth of a City* was dedicated, not only to Yuli Kosharovskiy's two young boys Eli and Mati, but to four Leningrad refuseniks, Nehama and Alex Lein (whose father Evgeni was once a prisoner) and to Mike Salzman and Misha Beizer, both historians like myself. Misha Beizer's young son lives today in Israel, several thousand miles from his father. In 1986 my book *The Holocaust, The Jewish Tragedy*, was

dedicated to Professor Alexander Lerner, two of whose little children, Ingar and Victoria, were murdered by the Nazis on Soviet soil in 1941. His only daughter, Sonia, born after the war, lives now in Israel. Is it really so hard for this father of 74 to be allowed to join his daughter?

The most recent volume of the Churchill biography, volume seven, *Road to Victory*, in which I pay full tribute to the contribution of the Soviet Union to the defeat of Nazism, giving many striking details of the predominant role of the Red Army and its effect on Churchill's wartime policies (including his assertion of Britain's moral obligations to Russia as a result of Russia's wartime suffering), is dedicated to the Kholmiansky family of Moscow, who have made me welcome in their home on my two visits to the Soviet Union.

It would be wrong of me not to try to help the Kholmiansky family. But for this very reason, if they or any other of my 13 dedicatees are to be the beneficiaries of the new mood, as hopefully many thousands of other Jews will also be, I will be among the first to give credit where credit is due: to recognize and to welcome the process of change of which you, Professor Ziv, have spoken with such eloquence, and indeed passion.

In the hope that, as your own great anthropologist Malinovsky once wrote, "hope cannot fail nor desire deceive."

I am,
Yours most sincerely,
Martin Gilbert

Compiled by Enid Wurman from reports received by the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre, the London newsletter "Jews in the USSR," the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Israel Action, and other sources in the Soviet Union, Israel, England and the U.S. The dates indicate when the reports were received.

FEBRUARY 19

Some 40 Leningrad refuseniks, concerned about the fate of prisoner of Zion Mark Nepomniashchy, 55, have sent an appeal to authorities protesting against the humiliating abuse to which Mark has been subjected by fellow prisoners. The refuseniks, including Aba Taratuta, Anna Lifshitz, Evgeny Lela and Lev Shapiro, condemn the lack of intervention by camp officials, which encourages further persecution.

Zinoviy Raskovsky's daughter, Irina Raskovskaya-Valdberg, and sister, Henrietta Orlovsky have sent an appeal from Israel on his behalf to Mikhail Gorbachev.

Zinoviy Raskovsky's sister is Maria Slepak, who together with her husband, former prisoner of Zion Vladimir Slepak, has been a refusenik since 1969. Zinoviy delayed his own application for an exit visa while his brother-in-law remained in exile.

Tass recently cited the following refuseniks as not being allowed to leave the Soviet Union because they had access to state secrets: Andrei Lifshitz, Evgeniy Palamuk, Stepan Yantovsky, Irina Gurevich and Leonid Yezhovskiy.

The refuseniks protested to the Commission of Human Rights, citing Gorbachev's statement of secrecy not to exceed 5-10 years.

Natasha Ratner Magarik has sent letters protesting against the prison authorities who are forcing her husband, Alexei Magarik, 28, to wear a yellow badge denoting him as an especially violent prisoner. In her letters to the Office of Prisons and Labour Camps, the President of the Supreme Soviet, the Procurator's office and Soviet press, she said: "My husband is being punished because his father resides in Israel... I demand the withdrawal of the secret illegal instructions and the removal of my husband's yellow badge, which inevitably evokes the memory of the yellow Stars of David worn in the ghettos..."

FEBRUARY 20

Prof. Anatoly Raben, an oncologist, has sent an appeal to physicians throughout the world: "I am a Soviet

News calendar



Zachar Zushine: He was freed

physician, a former war veteran who took part in the liberation of the Soviet Union and Poland and finished the war in Berlin. I was wounded in battle, served as a physician of an armoured tank regiment and was awarded the Red Star Order and 11 military medals.

All this did not prevent the secret police from arresting me after my discharge from the army and charging me with espionage for the Americans. Jewish bourgeois nationalism, etc. Despite all the tortures I refused to sign any confession, but the authorities still sent me to the Gulag for 10 years.

My father, Solomon Raben was shot during the 1937 purges and my mother, Sofia Raben, was exiled as a



Lev Sud: Musical secrets?

reunite with my sister, the only member of our family to survive the Holocaust, everything changed. Dismissed from all my positions, my family of eight had no means of livelihood.

"I am no longer young, and my health has been undermined by various deprivations. Our application for emigration has been turned down for 'insufficient motives.' However, nothing will prevent me from continuing to fight for my right to leave this country, which has not ceased showing its hostility towards me. I do not want my two grandsons to share my fate..." Write to: USSR; Moscow 103055; ul. Novotseynaya 3, korp. 2, apt. 24; Prof. Anatoly Raben.

FEBRUARY 22

In an appeal to musicians throughout the world, Lev Sud, 30, writes: "The events which prompted my appeal to you could be considered humorous were it not for their consequences on the destiny of my family. After I graduated from Moscow State Conservatory's Department of Musicology in 1981, I served one and a half years in the Soviet army as a musician. Upon my discharge, our family applied for exit visas to Israel, but we were refused."

"Because of the recent statement by Mr. Gerasimov of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, we discovered that our refusal is ostensibly the result of my knowledge of state secrets. A simple question arises: What kind of state secrets could a musician know? Does the Soviet army possess secret musical instruments whose existence is unknown in the world, or even strings made out of top-secret alloys?"

FEBRUARY 23

Prisoner of Zion Vladimir Lifshitz, in recent letters to his wife, Anna, has mentioned that he's been subjected to especially harsh treatment since February 4th. He was transferred to a new unit where anti-Semitism is rampant. The amount of additional work has been increased.

Former prisoner of Zion Roald (Alek) Zelichenok, 50, who was recently released from labour camp, is caught in a Catch-22. The local authorities refuse to give him a "propiska" (a residence permit) until he presents an official letter from a place of employment ready to accept him for work. But no organization can employ him without a propiska. The lack of a propiska deprives him of the right to medical care which he urgently needs.

Political prisoners who were released in Moscow have experienced no difficulties in obtaining a propiska. Zelichenok feels the Leningrad authorities are distorting the Kremlin's policies. He needs medication. No physician will check his blood pressure. He said of his fight for repatriation to Israel: "It's not a time for euphoria."

MARCH 1, 1987

Compelled to seek help for her family because of their difficult situation, Tanya Edelstein, wife of prisoner of Zion Yuli Edelstein, has sent appeals to the presidents of Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Peru, Panama, and Venezuela in the hope that they will use their influence and good relations with the Soviet Union to help the family. "My husband has never engaged in any kind of activity forbidden by the law. His desire to leave for the State of Israel is his only crime," she wrote.

On February 13, Edelstein was hospitalized, most likely for continued kidney complications. In an accident in prison last year, he suffered a fracture of his left thigh, compound fractures of his pelvic bone, and a ruptured urethra. His wife contacted the Procurator's Office to see if indeed her

husband's case is under review, as mentioned in a Tass report, but to date his case has not reached the procurator.

MARCH 2

Fifty refusals were issued today in Moscow, among them to prominent long-term refusenik and renowned scientist Alexander Lerner. In refusal since 1971, Prof. Lerner, 73, was told by OVIR that they would allow him to leave to reunite with his daughter in Israel but that the Academy of Science was blocking his exit visa.

Former prisoner of Zion Dr. Yosef Begun, 54, who was recently released from Chistopol prison, was permitted to apply for an exit visa today, and was promised a quick reply by OVIR (rather than the usual one-month period, and despite the fact that he does not have a residence permit).

In Leningrad, Mikhail Beizer, began a work strike today to protest the continued deprivation of being allowed to reunite with his son in Israel. In the past month, exit visas have been denied to: Carmela and Vladimir Ratz, refuseniks in Vilnius for the last 14 years "until the year 2,000"; in Moscow to former prisoner of Zion Vladimir Kislik, 51, in refusal for 13 years, and to former prisoner of Zion Victor Bralovsky and his wife, Irina, who have been refuseniks for 14 years. In Chernovtsy, Marat and Klavdia Osnis, refuseniks for 15 years, have been given a refusal until 1994.

MARCH 5

Yuri Shepizman celebrated his 55th birthday with his wife, Nellie, in Leningrad today. He is very seriously ill with lymphosarcoma. In a telephone conversation, he told his daughter Margarita Levin, in Jerusalem this week, that for the first time he wonders whether he'll ever see her again. He was separated from his daughter a decade ago and has never met his two grandsons, who were born in Israel. The Shepizmans were told to stop sending appeals, as they were to no avail.

MARCH 5

Former prisoner of Zion Lev Elbert, 38, met with Cyrus Vance, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, and Henry Kissinger on their recent visit to Moscow to attend the Peace Forum. (Vance had helped Elbert in 1983 after the KGB falsely accused the prisoner of attempting to smuggle narcotics into his labour camp. The charges were subsequently dropped, which Elbert attributes to Vance's personal intervention.)

The Elberts have just been refused until 1992. They believe it is an act of revenge against their family by the Ukrainian KGB.

In "a cry from the heart" to Raisa Gorbachev, Inna Mizukhina Elbert, 35, a cardiologist, asks: "What additional sacrifices will I have to make to embrace my 70-year-old mother in Israel and prevent my son, Carmi, from sharing his father's fate?"

Finding their situation intolerable and having lost all patience, Inna Elbert has decided to go on an indefinite hunger strike today.

In an appeal to Israel's leaders, the Elberts said: "As citizens of the State of Israel, we appeal to our government and its people with the request to help us return to Zion."

MARCH 6

Prisoner of Zion Zachar Zushine, 35, was released today. He served a three-year sentence on charges of "defamation of the Soviet State and social system." Presently in Moscow, Zachar and his wife Tatyana will travel to Riga to obtain their exit visas in three days.

MARCH 7

About 100 refusenik women in Moscow, Leningrad, Kharkov, Bendersky, Kiev and Riga have declared a hunger strike for three days, starting today, to coincide with International Women's Day. Among those taking part: Tatyana Ulanovskaya, Mara Balashinskaya, Ida Taratuta, Ada Lvovskaya, Rosa Ioffe, Elena Klotz, Inna Ioffe, Elena Dublinskaya, Oksana Kholmiansky, Elizaveta Shapiro, Yudit Lurie.

Emigration statistics: 146 Jews left the Soviet Union in February.

The Soviet Jewry page, which appears fortnightly, is edited by Louis Rapoport.



Haim Burshtein (left) says that the struggle for the release of Prisoner of Zion Vladimir Lifshitz (right) should now be intensified. Masha Lifshitz, pictured with her father two years ago in Leningrad, celebrated her bat-mitzva last week. (photos: Louis Rapoport, Martin Gilbert)

From Leningrad to Jerusalem

By LOUIS RAPOPORT

It didn't look too good for young Albert (Haim) Burshtein a couple of months ago. As he travelled in a taxi through a Leningrad suburb, a black Volga followed in hot pursuit. The taxi driver became hysterical, and instead of pulling over, he accelerated. After the KGB pursuers finally succeeded in curbing the cab, they pulled Haim out and beat him mercilessly in the street. "This is just a taste of what's in store for you," the bloodied 21-year-old activist was told.

Movement people, including Ida Nudel, had been saying for months that Burshtein was the most likely candidate to become the next prisoner of Zion.

The KGB men had been keeping close tabs on the 21-year-old Leningrad activist for over a year because of his efforts to help Jews imprisoned for their role in the Jewish emigration movement.

Burshtein had become an observant Jew while in his late teens, and his refusenik parents followed suit. He learned Hebrew, and spoke it openly with his young friends. He challenged the authorities and was cheeky when interrogated.

Last May, his father, Edward, a mild-mannered engineer, was summoned to KGB headquarters and warned that both he and his son could be imprisoned soon - the

father for "slandering the Soviet state" and the son for "propaganda against the Soviet state," which carries a much stiffer term (seven years in prison followed by five years in Siberian exile). The authorities said they did not like the youth's "uncompromising attitude" and the openness of his efforts on behalf of the Jewish movement.

Haim, during one interrogation, shouted at the KGB men, "I am an Israeli citizen, and Israel knows how to protect its citizens." In fact, he did hold Israeli citizenship, which Jerusalem has extended to some 800 Soviet Jewish activists.

But just when Haim's future looked grimmer, he married an American Jew who had returned to the USSR after meeting the Burshteins family a year earlier. In the first week of February, the Burshteins announced that they would demonstrate in front of the U.S. Consulate, and that same day, they got permission to emigrate.

Just over a week ago, the Burshteins arrived in Israel, and settled in at the Mevasseret Zion absorption centre near Jerusalem. Haim, looking up a reporter he had met the previous summer in Leningrad, said that his main task now was to struggle for the release of prisoner of Zion Vladimir Lifshitz. "His case takes precedence," Burshtein said. "He is an ailing 45-year-old man being

forced to work an illegal 16 hours a day in prison, and to keep pace with prisoners in their twenties and thirties." Lifshitz spends eight hours a day threading vegetable sacks - the quota was recently raised to 150 sacks per day - and two hours untwisting ropes for thread to be used for the next day's work. Hours more are spent loading and unloading coal, clearing snow and "cleaning the territory," Burshtein said.

Lifshitz, who is serving a three-year term for "slandering of the Soviet regime," is an old family friend of the Burshteins. "Originally, he was interested in emigrating only because he wanted a better life in the U.S.," Haim Burshtein recalled. "But then he became interested in Judaism, in Hebrew. He educated himself, and others, and he wanted to go only to Israel."

Burshtein, while continuing to work for the release of other Soviet Jews, plans to study simultaneously at a yeshiva and a university. Although he is associated with the anti-Zionist Agudat Yisrael, he believes it is necessary to struggle for all Soviet Jews, and not to show any discrimination according to ideological, religious or political lines.

Life is optimistic that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will allow out many thousands of Jews. "He must make a deal with the West for trade. And this is the way he'll do it."

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TODAY

THE NA'AMAT women's organization has come out in favour of a recommendation by the Scheinbaum Commission to establish a network of family courts around the country.

The commission, which submitted its report to the Justice Ministry several weeks ago, recommends that these courts operate under the auspices of the district courts to handle a wide range of domestic issues including child custody, family violence and support obligations.

At present, jurisdiction for these cases is divided between the magistrates, district, youth and criminal courts.

Na'amat secretary-general Masha Lubelsky stressed at a recent press conference that the family courts would not replace the rabbinical courts and that the proposal was not a backhanded attempt to introduce civil divorce. Instead, she said, the new court system would enable couples to receive counselling and mediation before beginning adversarial proceedings, in the hopes of getting them to reconcile, or at least to part amicably.

Dr. Uriel Rosen-Zvi, a senior lecturer in law at Tel Aviv University

A family rifts court

Divorcing couples would be spared running around to different courts for rulings on domestic issues if the concept of a family court were made a reality, Lea Levavi reports.

and a member of the Scheinbaum Commission, said at the meeting that the family court would be more effective if the "binding action" of the Rabbinical Courts Law, were repealed.

Under this section, when a spouse sues for divorce in rabbinical court, all related issues including custody and support, are "bound up" with the divorce case and must be heard by the rabbinical court.

THIS HAS two negative effects, he said. One is that women, knowing they will get better support payments in civil courts, try to "beat their husbands to it" and sue in civil court before their husbands go to

rabbinical court. He believes that this can precipitate a family break-up which might otherwise have prevented.

The second negative consequence is that a husband can deny his wife the divorce until she concedes property, child custody or other rights. Himself an Orthodox Jew, Rosen-Zvi said that the religious establishment should be the first to favour the repeal of the section, though considerations of political power would lead to the opposite result. The Scheinbaum committee did not want to discuss this issue, for fear that the whole idea of a family court would become politically untenable if the rabbinical courts law was altered, he said.

Rosen-Zvi proposed that the section be repealed and everything other than the actual divorce itself be transferred to the family court unless both spouses prefer the rabbinical court's jurisdiction.

Na'amat has written to the justice minister, the chairman of the Knesset law committee, the chairman of the coalition and the minister of labour and social affairs to press for establishment of family courts.

As part of the package of legislation which would be required to implement this change, Attorney Ofra Friedman, head of Na'amat's legal aid bureau, has drafted legislation to improve the 1974 Financial Relations Spouse Law to include not only current property but future expectations of earnings, pensions, insurance, etc.

Research in the U.S. showed that until these future income expectations were taken into account, ex-husbands' standard-of-living improved by between 40 and 120 per cent (depending in which state's statistics were used) following divorce, while the wife's standard of living dropped by an average of 73 per cent.

Good old garlic



Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

GREAT-GRANDMOTHERS who believed in the therapeutic benefits of garlic have been vindicated. A medical student from the State University of New York, spending time at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, proved for the first time that the pungent active ingredient in garlic is a potent killer of dysentery amoeba.

The student, Stuart Varon, worked under Prof. David Mirelman at the institute, who is a leading expert on the parasite causing amoebic dysentery.

On arriving at Weizmann, Varon was interested in learning about human parasites. He was interested in garlic and its effect on intestinal parasites from these studies, while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. A friend of his there had suffered from an intestinal parasite and was treated with fresh garlic.

Varon made a special study at Weizmann of allicin — the active ingredient in garlic — which had already been shown by other researchers to be successful in fighting fungus, bacteria and even tumours, as well as in preventing arteriosclerosis and reducing sugar and fat levels in the blood. But no one had tackled the possibility of using it to treat amoebic dysentery.

With the smell of garlic oil extracted from kilos of bulbs permeating his lab, Varon proved that allicin killed rapidly-growing cultures of the amoeba. However, it lost its potency when stored in the lab, only keeping well in the refrigerator or freezer.

There are some 400 million new cases of amoebic dysentery around the world each year.

THE INVENTION of the lithotripter, which destroys kidney stones with sound waves and often obviates the need for surgery, has been followed by the development of a similar device which crushes gallstones.

Both devices were developed by a company in Munich which will be marketing the first mass-produced device for painlessly ridding the body of gallstones in the coming weeks.

Both machines work on the same

principle — artificially triggered shock waves are directed at the patient's body in such a way that they crush the stones which lie exactly at the centre of their focus.

Unlike kidney stones, the position of the gallstones is difficult to detect with an X-ray machine. Thus the new device uses ultrasound to find their exact location.

In kidney stone lithotripter treatment, the patient has to sit in a water-filled bathtub because that medium is well-suited for transmission of the waves. But with gallstones, the waves were found not to be necessary. The patient receives treatment under general anaesthetic for an hour to 90 minutes.

The non-invasive procedure cuts hospitalization to seven days, compared to two weeks for gallstone surgery. There is also no post-operative pain and no risk, except from the anaesthetic.

Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem has Israel's only kidney-stone lithotripter, but it has not yet ordered the gallstone device.

NEARLY 40 per cent of all chickens eaten by American consumers are contaminated by salmonella — invisible micro-organisms that cause a distressing form of sickness with flu-like symptoms.

This news came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which admits that sanitation rules are not enforced rigidly at many poultry-processing plants.

Salmonellosis, the disease caused by the micro-organisms, can produce diarrhea, vomiting and other discomfort within 12 to 36 hours after eating. The illness may last two to seven days, and in rare cases can be fatal.

The salmonella can be killed by heat during proper cooking, and thorough handwashing after handling uncooked poultry can also help prevent contamination.

THE FIRST cardiac and intensive care department in the West Bank and Gaza, equipped with the latest technology at a total cost of

\$130,000, was opened recently at the government hospital in Ramallah. The doctors there trained at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer to prepare themselves for working in the new department.

A new cardiac surgery department recently began operating at the hospital as well, with \$300,000 worth of equipment purchased by the Civil Administration. Some 60 residents in the area are currently waiting for open-heart operations. Ramallah Hospital plans to do two such operations every week, and to start neurosurgery operations soon as well.

A BRITISH judge recently set a precedent by ruling that a man who impregnated a woman has no right to prevent her from undergoing an abortion.

Justice Rose Heilbrunn, 73, a member of the Supreme Court, ruled in an emergency session against a 23-year-old man whose girlfriend was in the early stages of pregnancy. Both are university students. The father said he had a right to protect the fetus's rights, but the judge said the law grants him no right to speak for the fetus.

RESIDENTS of the Negev do not drink enough water and, as a result, suffer from a much higher incidence of kidney problems, including kidney stones.

This was disclosed in research conducted by Prof. Yair Cassuto and the late Prof. Raphael Yisraeli of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Their findings were presented recently to Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katzav.

The two researchers found that the health of, most specifically, workers in agriculture and industry who were exposed to hot working environments, was likely to be endangered by inadequate water intake.

SPRAINS in the hip joint, surprisingly frequent in infants, are being detected early with ultrasound equipment used at Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Doctors have checked 200 babies for sprains using a technique developed in Europe and of these, 90 were diagnosed as having the dislocation. Before this technique was developed, it could be detected only in X-rays which are not desirable for use in the case of infants. If the joint problem is diagnosed early, it can be watched over and treated. If nothing is done, the child may suffer from pain, limping and malfunction of the leg.

The ultrasound detection technique can be performed right after birth and any malformation will be noticed immediately, say the Rambam doctors.

THE JEWISH General (Hospital) in Montreal has received a \$320,000 grant to serve as Canada's research centre on Aids. A team of researchers, headed by Dr. Mark Weinberg, will try to isolate the Aids virus and find ways to treat the disease. Blood samples from 400 Aids patients in Canada will be sent to the Montreal hospital for testing.

Weinberg fears that the number of Aids cases in Canada in 1986 — 809 — will double this year. The 41-year-old doctor, an Orthodox Jew, studied at New York's Columbia University and at McGill University in Montreal.

The story was reported in the latest issue of *Yisrael Shelanu*, the Hebrew weekly for Israelis living in North America.

A WOMAN who gave birth to a baby boy at Poriya Hospital in Galilee recently was found to have a bullet fragment in her womb.

Nitza Dayan, of Hissin on the Golan Heights, was wounded 16 years ago in a terrorist attack on a bus full of children. Then she was 10, and shrapnel was removed from various parts of her body. Doctors didn't know that any remained in her uterus. She married a year ago and just had her first baby.

"You have a battlefield baby," the surprised doctors told Nitza. The *brit mila* was held at the tomb of Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yohai in Meron.

Male bastions and marriages

away feeling satisfied and became regular customers at the shop.

Slowly, Haj Hassan began to replace his male barbers with female ones. The male barbers found work elsewhere and new clients came streaming into the shop, ready to place their heads in the able hands of the lady barbers.

So much for the all-male barber-shop. In Cairo, it looks like the victory is not only in the hands of the women. The men have won as well.

YA'ACOV LAMDAN

information about their children and families.

But as newspaper space for marriage advertisements has expanded, arranged unions have regained their former popularity. Marriage proposals advertised through papers are like proposals for arranged marriages themselves. Despite love marriages coming into the scene people have not shaken off their belief in arranged marriages.

The chances of finding a catch depend very much on what you say about yourself. If you are a woman advertising for a partner you must state your dowry and other financial assets. The more, the better. If you're a prospective bridegroom a rough idea of your salary and occupation will do.

Women also usually state whether they have a house, cash, jewelry and fair skin — which men often favour.

A man stating a monthly salary of 15,000 rupees (\$530) in a country where 1,000 (\$35) is the average will get instant response.

Some men now prefer a wife with a regular job rather than one with a dowry. Officials at the job bank, a state body matching job seekers with clerical vacancies in government,

said more women applied at their office this year because they realized men liked working wives.

Although prospects of financial stability are important in such an economic environment, it is the stars which often have the final word in sealing a marriage.

One typical marriage advertisement recently read: "Govigama (the highest of six major castes) Catholic mother seeks a partner, professional or businessman, for convent-educated English-speaking pleasant daughter age 28, 5'3". Returned from Europe having two Lakhs. Fixed deposits monthly interest 3,000 rupees. Foreign account for \$7,500. Substantial jewelry. Karawe (a lower caste) considered, horoscope essential." (Reuters)

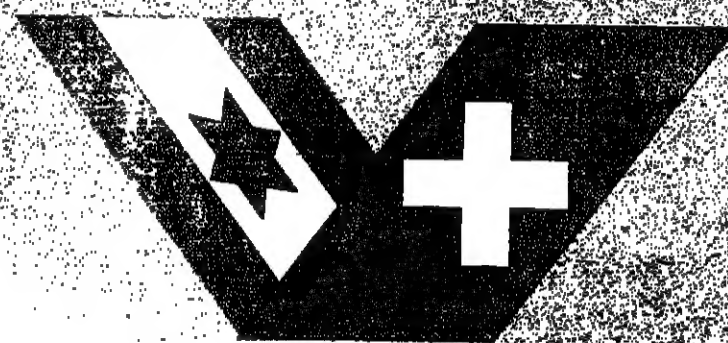
Speak-out on women's health

THE ISRAELI FEMINIST Movement invites women to participate in a "speak-out" on women's health to be held Wednesday evening, March 11, at 8 p.m. at Beit Tavori, 7 Shulamit Street, Tel Aviv.

Women who want to share their positive — or negative — experiences with the Israeli health establishment are encouraged to take part.

Today is edited by Amy Levinson.

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China's power struggle focuses on economy

Marxists, reformers square off

BEIJING (AFP). — Reformists and conservatives within the Chinese leadership are locked in a struggle for power which turns on the two key issues of ideological and economic policy.

Western diplomats, quoting reliable Chinese sources, say the debate now centres on one question, crucial for China's future: Is the free market more important than ideology in a Marxist state?

They say the old guard amongst the party leadership are hostile to the "open door" policy and are doing everything possible to ensure the return to a strict Marxist ideological line laid down by an authoritarian Communist Party.

For their part, most reformists are standing by their positions, saying that opening to the West is essential for the success of the economic reforms introduced by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1978 and for China's modernization programme.

The conservatives have achieved several successes recently, most notably the forced resignation of Communist Party Secretary General Hu

Yaobang on January 16. But such developments, as stricter guidelines for intellectuals, the expulsion from the party of three leading intellec-

Most reformists are standing by their positions, saying that opening to the West is essential for the success of economic reforms.

tuals and a campaign for economic austerity measures indicate the growing power of conservatives.

Despite these setbacks the reformists are still able to criticize the way Hu was forced from his post, according to the Chinese sources.

"Nobody says anything about the real issue involved, that is what the complaints against him are. But certain leading reformists have dared to say that the brutal announcement of his resignation did not benefit the role that Hu, a close associate of Deng

Xiaoping, had played at the head of the party for seven years," one Western diplomat says.

Another diplomat says two officials, one from each camp, told him "nothing is settled" and there were still differences over how far the current campaign should go.

However, he adds, all top ranking leaders now agreed that it was time to put the house in order and thus ensure that those intellectuals who had begun to challenge the authority of the party and China's socialist system toe the line.

"Deng Xiaoping is encouraging this return to greater orthodoxy. He has recognized that too much freedom was given to the intellectuals towards the end of 1986 and this was prejudicial to the party," a reliable Chinese source says.

"Parting company with the intellectuals has never been a problem for any Chinese government. The present leaders, just like their predecessors, have decided a strong and close-knit party is needed in which the intellectuals can later find their place," the source added.



Deng Xiaoping (UPI)



Zhao Ziyang (AFP)



Hu Yaobang (Camera Press)

Investment climate turns chilly

By JONATHAN MIRSKY
LONDON. — Foreign investors showed their lack of enthusiasm for China in 1986 by not spending their money there. Investment fell by a staggering 47 per cent from 1985 levels.

Potential investors in a country where at best profits do not come easily are unlikely to be reassured by Peking's statements following the release of the figures. The drop in investment indicates the effects of the past year's tightening up on loose practices and the high-level political shake-up at the start of this year will not affect the open door to the West.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, contracts for foreign trade in 1986 amounted to \$3.3 billion, compared with \$6.3b. in 1985. There were only 1,400 new projects in 1986, 500 less than the previous year.

Zhou Keren, the ministry's spokesman, accounts for the drop by pointing to the reduction in the number of non-productive projects, such as hotels, maintenance companies and taxi fleets, and the emphasis on advanced technology projects and those designed to promote exports.

"It is normal that the number of newly-approved joint ventures with direct foreign investment should decrease," Zhou observed.

The deputy director of the minis-

try's Foreign Investment Bureau emphasized that China's open door policy, initiated in 1979, will not be slowed by the attacks on "bourgeois liberalism," which include severe criticism of those who are alleged to be overly devoted to the West.

"This policy has been in place for eight years," the spokesman said. "It is popular with the people and has proved beneficial to both China and foreign partners. It is a long-term policy and comes from the country's collective leadership."

Zhou even levels an unusual charge against the "bourgeois liberals," saying they are being attacked because their views hinder the country's economic construction.

But although the ministry is at pains to stress that the open door is remaining open, echoing the remarks by premier Zhao Ziyang, who succeeded the disgraced Hu Yaobang as party general secretary in January, foreign businessmen in China are uneasy at the signs of high-level instability. The fall of Hu, the country's number two leader, the expected successor to Deng Xiaoping, and a man associated abroad with more openness, is not reassuring.

Even setting aside the present political situation, underlying problems remain. First, there are Chinese business practices, which

for many foreigners are an obstacle to trade. These include a sluggish bureaucracy, technological backwardness, high local expenses, meagre legal protection and difficulty in currency conversion.

More fundamental yet, is the divergence between investment goals. Until the end of 1985, Western investment had concentrated on sales inside China. Many foreign investors were reluctant to invest in exports; first because they were of notorious low quality, and secondly out of fear of competition with Western-manufactured goods. This led to dramatic falls in China's store of foreign exchange, and resulted in strict regulations how it would be spent throughout 1986.

In order to regain its lost foreign exchange, which is necessary for funding foreign-oriented capital construction, Peking is seeking projects aimed at exports. These it finds difficult to secure.

In any event, the Chinese accord on completing projects is not encouraging. According to Zhou, between 1979 and 1986 China approved 3,210 foreign joint ventures, more than 4,500 contractual joint ventures and 138 wholly-owned foreign enterprises. Less than half of these have gone into operation.

(London Observer Service)

BANKING ON IT / Pinhas Landau

A lender be

The official policy of the Israeli commercial banking industry is now to throw money at people. In line with the principle that money goes to money, the more you got the more you can get. As with many other things, Israel was late in joining the consumer credit mania now sweeping the Western world (especially, of course, the U.S., but also other countries). But having arrived, we are clearly determined to make up for lost time.

It took the Americans many years to lend consumers more money than anybody could imagine. Now, however, the media are chock-a-block with stories of the danger posed by the mountain of instalment credit, plastic card credit, bank credit and common-or-garden credit: how some people are hooked on it, while others are intent on hooking those not yet switched on to buying now and maybe paying later. It would appear that in Israel the banks, which are almost the sole repositories of credit, are determined to move from the primitive,

firm collateral, but then their delinquency rate is much greater. In other words, the American banks take greater risks than their Israeli counterparts and therefore make larger profits and also suffer greater losses when things go wrong. However, if current trends to increased consumer borrowing continue, the degree of risk must rise.

In order to cover every contingency, the terms are long and involved, Levin explains, and therefore they come across as being complicated and even vindictive. He is even prepared to admit that they could be phrased somewhat less brusquely. He distinguishes, however, between revolving credit loans (*hahad* accounts, the acronym for *heshbonot hova debitorum*, which allot customers fixed limits up to which they may stand overdrawn without paying excess interest rates or having their cheques returned) and fixed-repayment loans. In the former, the bank gives itself the right to demand the instant repayment of the whole loan at any time. In the latter, the bank will usually not take action unless several successive repayments have been missed.

Do people read the small print? Levin admits they don't, but regards that as their problem. The lawyer's dictum of *caveat emptor* is obviously the guiding principle here.

What about having a summary of key points, or having them emphasized in bold face or in some other way? That also won't do, according to the banks, because the legal implication of such a procedure would be that those terms in the summary, or emphasized, would be regarded as the important ones and the others would lose their legal applicability if the case went to court.

In short, the Israeli reality is that the bank customer borrowing money is really on his own and is exposed to the full force of the bank's collection system if he transgresses, wittingly or unwittingly, any of the terms of his loan agreement.

In practice, fortunately, things are less grim than the dry letter of the agreements would have them. Most banks will not call in a loan at the first opportunity, particularly if the client is well known. They will send letters, first in the normal way, then registered, then through their lawyers. (Each of these stages costs the client money, by the way.) Only then, after all these efforts have failed, will they resort to legal action. In any event, they have the option of offsetting the loan against any of the borrower's assets.

It would thus appear that the banks rely on two basic advantages that they have: 1) The legal documents the borrower signed when he got the loan allow them to do almost anything in the process of obtaining repayment, in terms of having an enforceable claim on the client and his assets. 2) They know that the delinquency rate is low, that most people have the possibility of obtaining resources of their own, or of family or friends, to settle the loan. Perhaps they also have faith in the sheer machine-like grinding down of the borrower by the bank bureaucracy.

The most unpleasant aspect of this system is when a bank makes ill-founded or mistaken claims on a customer. If this is done unwittingly, as is usually the case, Hapoolim's Levin notes that the bank in question should apologize profusely to the borrower, and possibly his guarantors as well, if they were involved. If there was a deliberate attempt to damage the borrower's reputation, indeed even if it was a mistake, the borrower may well have grounds for suing the bank.

Levin even advises customers with relatively minor disputes to consider taking their bank to the local small claims court, since that way the case will be dealt with reasonably quickly and the legal fees will not outweigh the amount in dispute.

The bottom line, according to Levin — who has a justified reputation for being a nice guy, despite being both a banker and a lawyer — is to see a contract with a bank as a dangerous instrument. It remains to be seen whether the new breed of lending officers in Israeli banking, who are distributing money with such gay abandon, will bother to explain that to their customers before they sign.

If one had to sum up the whole loan agreement in one sentence, it would read: "The bank is always right and the customer is always wrong."

almost non-existent level of consumer credit that existed in 1985, to the super-sophisticated over-indulgence in credit that the Americans have, with as short an interim span as possible.

The single major problem about borrowing money is that you have to pay it back. Another annoying sideline to this repayment angle is that the people who give the money take interest on it. So you not only have to give back what you took, but actually more — often far more — than the original sum. These less desirable aspects are often downplayed by the eager salesman, who is trying to get you hooked on buying things you can't really afford.

The usual outcome of these transactions is that the borrower barely glances at the closely packed fine print of the loan agreement, in his haste to scribble his name and get his hands on the money.

But it would behoove people to at least make an attempt at absorbing the terms under which they borrow. Doing so would at least make some of them think twice about what they were letting themselves in for. A detailed examination of the terms of credit in almost any borrowing agreement are enough to make anyone blanch.

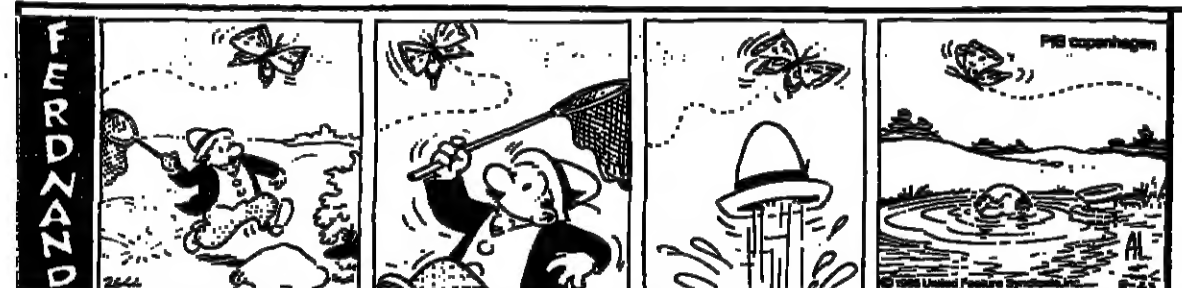
These terms are written in the driest, most legalistic and impenetrable language, so that even people with a good command of ordinary Hebrew feel uncomfortable. Those who do understand what is said, however, feel far more uncomfortable. If one had to sum up the whole document in one sentence, it would read "the bank is always right and the customer always wrong." By way of elaboration, it could add, "whenever we want some or all of the money back, you cough up or we will have you over a barrel."

In these respects, it makes no difference which banking institution you deal with. To a large extent, the formulae are the same in all countries, although some consumer lobbies have made limited headway in forcing through legislation that obliges lenders to draw borrowers' attention to key aspects of the loan.

In Israel, the level of consumer protection is low, and the banks operate well-oiled machines for collecting debts, even if the borrower has run into difficulties.

According to Aviv Levin, the head of Bank Hapoolim's legal department, the rationale behind the off-putting terms is this: When a bank lends a customer money, it is parting with funds deposited by someone else, which it has to repay in due course. Therefore, it is obliged to make sure it gets back the money it has itself loaned out. Given the choice between putting blind faith in the borrower or demanding collateral, the bank opts for the latter route.

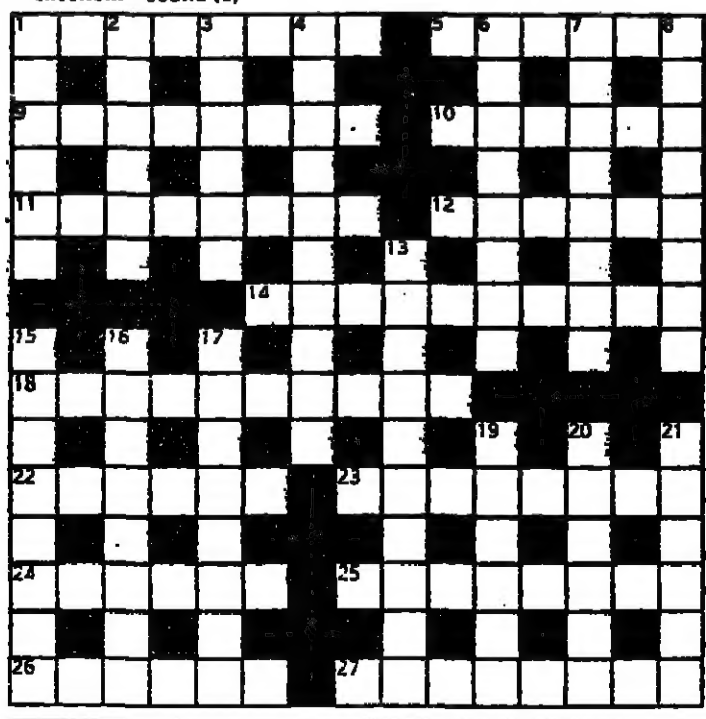
Paraphrasing, it may be added that in the U.S. the system is much less rigidly geared to loans being based on



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Academic boss wanting acknowledgments of indebtedness (8)
 - 5 Very large watch made on the Continent (6)
 - 9 A French male stayed awfully insecure (8)
 - 10 Talks at some length of money and taxes (6)
 - 11 Adroitness affecting great love (8)
 - 12 Scold when six tease duck (6)
 - 14 Fur's needed for the cold in the Orient (10)
 - 18 Polar explorer demanding hamper to go to the North (10)
 - 22 Supplying assistance is excellent—sound (6)

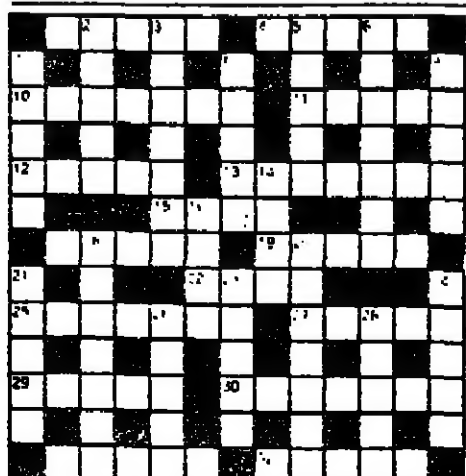
- DOWN**
- 1 Sidney holds set-up to be quite senseless (6)
 - 2 Push to produce an effect (6)
 - 3 No degrees needed to be top like this! (3-3)
 - 4 Sleep on it (5-5)
 - 6 True art back in view (8)
 - 7 Involves outside right—and insides (8)
 - 8 Making loss, paid in settlement (8)
 - 13 Travellers' accommodation accorded acclaim for a change (10)
 - 15 Taking blockheads in is criminal! (8)
 - 16 Interfering with drainage could be a bloomer (8)
 - 17 Trick the top man in similar fashion (4-4)
 - 19 Notes resulting from a month on the road (6)
 - 20 Go through a number with permission (6)
 - 21 In general the eucalyptus tree thrives in the West Country (6)



Yesterday's Solution

ACROSS: 1. Hiker, 4. Mission, 8. Radiant, 9. Onset, 10. Issue, 11. Lateral, 12. Reek, 15. Thrust, 17. Iberia, 20. None, 22. Samovar, 24. Girth, 26. April, 27. Tonsure, 28. Fielder, 29. Abele, DOWN: 1. Harpist, 2. Kudos, 3. Respers, 4. Mettle, 5. Stout, 6. Insurer, 18. Begonia, 19. Athlete, 21. Orator, 22. Scarf, 23. Valid, 25. Rouse.

QUICK SOLUTION



QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 After sunset
 - 4 Local taxation
 - 10 Famous
 - 11 Tax
 - 12 Deserve
 - 13 Watch
 - 15 Military force
 - 17 Mahre
 - 19 Shaving equipment
 - 22 Elderly
 - 25 Ugly sight
 - 27 Frighten
 - 29 Pilot
 - 30 Bright red
 - 31 Flat
 - 32 Assert

- DOWN**
- 2 Rury
 - 3 Natural home
 - 5 Rank of maps
 - 6 Prohibition
 - 7 For
 - 8 Brumm
 - 9 Foreign
 - 14 Cowshed
 - 16 Back
 - 18 Exart
 - 20 Obdurate
 - 21 Shell
 - 23 Domestic birds
 - 24 Friendship
 - 26 Overweight
 - 28 Apportion

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Dr. Bella, 6 King David, 224856; Balsam, Salah Eddin, 272316; Shu'afet, Shu'afat Road, 810108; Dar Aladwa, Herod's Gate, 262058.
Tel Aviv: Hakeva, 18 Ibn Givrol, 204850; Bavit, 1 Uziel, corner 10Tolodano, Bavit, 440552.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Doctor, 47 Sheshet Hayamin, Kfar Sava.
Netanya: Porat, 78 Petah Tikva, 40867; Krayot Haifa: Kupat Holim, Simat Mod'in, Krayot Morzin, 715136.
Haifa: Mazor, 97 Hameginim, 524113.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (pediatrics, orthopedics, ophthalmology, E.N.T.), Bikur Holim (internal, obstetrics), Shaare Zedek (surgery).
Tel Aviv: Rokeh (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Landau

POLICE

100

Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tiberias dial 924444, Kiryat Shmona 4444.

FIRE

102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FLIGHTS

24 — Hours Flight Information Services: Call 03-08712494 (multi-line), Arrivals Only (Taped Message) 03-381111 (20 lines)

FIRST AID

101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod 41333
Ashdod 23333
Bat Yam *521111
Beer Sheva 74757
Carmiel *88855
Dan Region *781111
Elitz 7233
Haifa 23333
Haifa *512233
Hatzor 36333
Holon 803133
Jerusalem *523133
Kiryat Shmona *4434
Nahariya *923333
Netanya *23333
Petah Tikva *923111
Rishon *451335
Rishon LeZion 94333
Safed 30333
Tel Aviv *240111
Tiberias *90111

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Ezer — Emotional First Aid, Tel. Jerusalem 227171, Tel. Aviv 261111 (children's youth) 03-251133, Haifa 672222, Beer Sheva 418111, Netanya 35316, Carmiel and the north 04-988410.
Rage Crisis Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel. Aviv, 25819, Jerusalem — 249554, and Haifa 562511.
The National Poison Control Centre at Rambam Hospital, phone (04) 529305, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Knesset Helpline Information Centre Tel. 03-433300, 433500 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WORLD BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Bank of England signals half-point interest rate cut

LONDON (AFP). — The Bank of England bowed to pressure to reduce the cost of borrowing yesterday, signalling a 0.5 percentage point cut from the high level of 11 per cent in place since mid-October. The signal was given to the British banking sector to cut their base rates by 0.5 per cent when the Bank of England lowered its dealing rates by a similar margin this morning. National Westminster was the first of the so-called "big four" clearing banks to respond to the signal by cutting its base rate to 10.5 per cent, followed by Lloyds.

The other two — Barclays and Midland — were expected to follow soon. Despite the cut, Sterling was stronger yesterday, finishing in Europe at 1.8548.

OPEC HAS POSTPONED a meeting of one of its committees because some ministers feared that colleagues who do not sit on the panel might nonetheless attend and effectively make it a full cartel session, unsettling a jittery oil market. Opec sources said today.

They said the meeting of the seven-nation pricing committee, originally scheduled for yesterday at Opec's Vienna headquarters, was now unlikely to take place before the next full conference on June 25 of all 13 ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec's current strategy is to curb members' oil output so as to maintain a price around \$18 a barrel, about 20 per cent higher than the price late in 1986.

RENAULT AND CHRYSLER Corp. have signed a letter of intent in which Chrysler plans to buy American Motors Corp., 46 per cent owned by Regie Nationale Des Usines Renault.

Renault President Raymond Levy said in a statement issued by the French state car group yesterday that the agreement was an important stage in Renault's redeployment. "It will allow Renault to continue its export programme to the U.S. and also opens a perspective of cooperation with a major American constructor," the statement said.

Under the terms of the letter of intent, Chrysler will purchase Renault's stake held in the form of bonds and shares, totalling \$550 million.

TOKYO'S TIGHT-FISTED budgetary policy came under unprecedented criticism by the U.S., which warned that Japan must act firmly to boost its economy.

Senior U.S. officials said yesterday that in high-level trade talks last week, Washington called Tokyo's overall fiscal policy deflationary and argued that Japan's economic position is not as dire as it says, the official said.

Ministry of Health/Spokesman's Bureau

TONIGHT — DIAL



and learn how to take precautions
Open line
at the service of the public

Experts from important medical centres in Israel will answer questions on all aspects of Aids.
Tonight — 4-6 p.m.

Phone numbers: 03-216521
03-264571 03-265371
03-265916 03-260176

AIDS — Knowledge can make the difference between life and death

Business fears Pollard backlash

By KEN SCHACHTER

For The Jerusalem Post
TEL AVIV. — Reports that Israeli companies are encountering bias in the U.S. in the wake of the Pollard spy scandal were greeted by industrialists here with a mixture of concern and skepticism.

Yehoshua Maor, president of the Israel-American Chamber of Commerce, yesterday said the group was troubled by reports of difficulties encountered by firms bidding on U.S. contracts. He said the chamber had approached the U.S. Embassy here and other sources in Israel and the U.S. to verify the allegations.

A U.S.-based consultant who promotes the sale of Israeli goods on the American market was quoted on Israel Radio as saying there are "numerous examples" in which bids by Israeli companies for U.S. government contracts were unjustly rejected.

But one Israeli who buys Israeli-

made equipment for a U.S. company cast doubt on the charges and said any fallout from the case would not be felt for months.

"Currently, I don't think there is any truth to this story," he said. Referring to the source quoted on Israel Radio, he said: "This guy's job is to promote and market Israeli products. In a way, I think this guy is finding a way to explain why he's not doing his job properly. In any case, I think it's a matter of months before the full bloom of this [Pollard] affair is felt here."

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said he could add nothing to confirm or deny the reports of discrimination.

Yael Ephron, an economist for Koor Ltd., said security considerations posed a hurdle for Israeli companies selling military equipment to Washington even before Jonathan Pollard, a U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, was found guilty of passing secrets to Israel.

"It was a problem before," she said, "and it will be after."

Specifically, foreign companies must get a special security rating to qualify to sell to U.S. forces or to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato). In the past, some Israeli companies have bought firms in the U.S. to qualify for the security rating, but if Washington found the Israeli company's U.S. branch was merely a front, it stripped the Israelis of their security clearance.

Maor said the chamber is coordinating its actions with its branches in the U.S. and voiced the hope that government officials won't harm economic ties.

Still, in his statement, Maor issued a veiled warning of retaliation in stressing "that the State of Israel is not a small buyer, even in U.S. terms and Israel is purchasing a large amount of equipment it needs in the U.S., including components and know-how."



Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi examines diamond-cutting tools at the Ramat Gan Bourse yesterday. With him are Diamond Manufacturers Association Director-General Zvi Shur (center) and a member of the group's board, Uri Schwartz. (Fuchs)

Ya'acobi sees worsening foreign reserves picture

RAMAT GAN (Itim). — The problem with foreign currency reserves is expected to get much worse in the next two years, and there is no reason to get excited about the figures showing a 35 per cent drop in the trade deficit for February, Gad Ya'acobi, economic and planning minister, said yesterday.

Speaking during a visit to the Diamond Bourse here, Ya'acobi said that exporting should be made easier and bureaucratic red tape eliminated by lowering the travel tax for exporters and abolishing the 3 per cent tax on loans from abroad. The minister also said the government must help finance the training

of new production and export workers, especially in development areas by transferring unemployment payments to companies that employ these workers. This, he said, would bring down the cost of production and increase output in development towns.

In response to questions about tax breaks for production workers, Ya'acobi said income tax reductions should be given only to workers who increase their productivity.

He added that following the conclusion of a two-year experiment he believed that interest rates should be lowered for producers and exporters.

FINANCIAL DATA ISRAEL EUROPE U.S.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 2.5% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	Last Updated	Tapas	Pakam 7-Day	Pakam 30-Day
LEUMI	8.3	10-25.50%	11-25.50%	15-28.00%
HAPOLIM	13.2	10-24.00%	11-24.50%	15-27.00%
DISCOUNT	25.2	10-25.50%	11-25.50%	17-28.00%
MIZRAHI	1.12	8-17%	6-17.50%	6-18.50%
FIRST INT'L	24.2	17-25.00%	18.25-26.50%	22-28.00%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Tapas: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (March 9)

	MINIMUM DEP	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD (\$100,000)	5.625	5.625	5.625	5.625
STG (£100,000 pounds)	8.375	8.375	8.375	8.375
DMK (100,000 marks)	3.125	3.125	3.125	3.125
SFR (50,000 francs)	2.875	2.875	2.875	2.875
YEN (3,000,000 yen)	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (March 9)

		CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
		Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	1	1.6710	1.6910	—	—	1.6808
U.S. Dollar	1	1.6100	1.6300	1.58	1.65	1.6208
Deutschmark	1	0.6703	0.6811	0.65	0.68	0.6750
Pound Sterling	1	2.5607	2.5925	2.51	2.62	2.5746
French Franc	1	0.2614	0.2648	0.25	0.27	0.2630
Japanese Yen	100	1.0468	1.0598	1.03	1.07	1.0630
Dutch Florin	1	0.7703	0.7799	0.76	0.79	—
Swiss Franc	1	1.0321	1.0449	1.01	1.05	1.0376
Swedish Krone	1	0.2433	0.2524	0.24	0.26	0.2506
Norwegian Krone	1	0.2318	0.2347	0.23	0.24	0.2332
Danish Krone	1	0.2314	0.2343	0.23	0.24	0.2327
Finnish Mark	1	0.3564	0.3598	0.35	0.36	0.3574
Canadian Dollar	1	1.2048	1.2196	1.18	1.23	1.2134
Australian Dollar	1	1.0837	1.1073	1.02	1.12	1.1013
S. African Rand	1	0.7728	0.7824	0.50	0.60	0.7781
Belgian Franc	10	0.4171	0.4223	0.41	0.43	0.4225
Austrian Shilling	100	1.2368	1.2519	1.21	1.27	1.2437
Italian Lira	1000	1.2282	1.2414	1.20	1.26	1.2316
Jordanian Dinar	1	—	—	4.51	4.78	4.6881
Egyptian Pound	1	—	—	0.79	0.83	0.8185
ECU	1	1.8088	1.8313	—	—	1.8184

SUPPLIED BY BANK LEUMI

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL MARKETS

	(March 9)		
PRECIOUS METALS			
GOLD:	LONDON A.M. FIX 404.85 P.M. FIX 405.00		
	PARIS NOON FIX 406.70 ZURICH P.M. 405.50		
SILVER:	LONDON FIX 555.00		
PLATINUM:	LONDON P.M. 528.00		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON P.M. 124.50		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT) Forward Rates

	SPOT	2 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS
DEUTSCHMARK	1.8518/25	78/73	112/108	219/214
POUND STERLING	1.5910/20	103/101	148/143	271/267
SWISS FRANC	1.5622/32	64/60	95/91	191/184
JAPANESE YEN	153.45/55	52/50	72/70	137/132
FRENCH FRANC	6.1800/20	163/163	255/255	540/550
ITALIAN LIRA	1315.10/80	7.80/8.30	1175/1250	2375/2475
DUTCH GULDEN	2.0800/50	34/30	54/50	112/106
BELGIAN FRANC	35.350/70	6.5/5.5	10/13	19/24
DANISH KRONE	6.9600/25	565/515	855/805	1545/1745
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4800/07	14/9	20/15	80/70
EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT	1.1228/31	17/14	24/21	45/40
FINNISH MARK	4.5300/20	525/555	775/825	1600/1700
AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	0.6780/93	86/83	123/118	213/207
NORWEGIAN KRONE	6.9580/10	935/985	1430/1480	2840/2980

Formula for determining forward rates:
high/low (eg. 220/210) — deduct from spot price.
low/high (eg. 210/220) — add to spot price.

NEW YORK FINANCIAL MARKETS

U.S. MONEY RATES
Prime Rate 7.50%; Broker 7.25%-7.00%; NY Euros 3 months 6% — 3/4%; Fed Funds late 6 1/4%.

NEW YORK FOREIGN EXCHANGE

	PREVIOUS CLOSE	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN
OPENING	1.8440/50	1.5555/65	1.5840/50	153.65/70	1.3342/47	
LATEST	1.8520/30	1.5620/30	1.5915/25	153.65/70	1.3360/75	
	1.8555/65	1.5655/65	1.5970/80	153.65/70	1.3342/47	

Comment
The dollar traded just below yesterday's highs, supported by bullish technical signals and Friday's stronger-than-expected U.S. job figures for February. West German economic data, by contrast, have been poor of late. Dollar-buying was moderate, with the market far from convinced that a sustained advance is beginning. Sterling was firm despite British interest rate cuts.

ISRAELI STOCKS

TRADED IN NEW YORK:

	NYSE and ASE	Last	Prev. Close	High	Low	Vol ('000)
Alliance		26 1/4	26 1/4	26 1/4	26 1/4	119
Amir Int'l P		1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	11
Arpal		1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	119
Cml Cntrs		8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	121
Elscint		1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/4	45
Etl Lavud		10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	3
Laser Inds		14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	14 1/4	39
Over the counter						
Aryl		last	bid	ask		
Bank Leumi		22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/4	4 1/2	5
Elbit		10 1/4	10 1/4	11 1/4	7 1/2	7 1/2
ECI Tel.		4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	2 1/2	2 1/2
Elron		8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	5	4 1/2
Fluorina		10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
IDS Bank		51	51	51	8 1/4	9 1/4
IS		3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2

WALL STREET Closing Prices

	Dow Jones Indices	NYSE Highest Volume		
IND	2,256.47	-23.76	AM MOTORS	4 1/4 + 3/4
TRANS	944.53	-13.68	DET ED	18 1/2 UNCH
UTILS	217.81	-1.27	CAESARS	27 1/4 + 3/4
STOCKS	856.04	-9.44	SUPPLY GEN	4 1/4 6 1/4
NYSE COMP	164.15	-3.30	MCDERMOTT	29 1/2 UNCH
NYSE INDS	195.49	-2.49	ALLEGINTL	24 + 5/8
NASDAQ COMP	427.00	-2.45	PIEDMONT	67 1/2 - 1/4
S-P 100 INDEX	277.82	-1.59	PAC GAS EL	25 1/2 - 1/4
AMEX INDEX	327.55	-2.02	AM EXPRESS	76 1/2 - 3/4
			REVLON	18 1/4 + 1/4

Statistics	NYSE VOL 164,177,900	STOCKS UP 366 DOWN 887
NASDAQ VOL 170,428,900 (Mar. 5)	STOCKS UP 1,293 DOWN 898	

Comment
Wall Street stocks, pounded early in the morning by a bout of futures-related sell programs, were lower in moderately active trading yesterday. Profit-taking in a wide array of stocks, particularly drugs and technology, accounted for the continued weakness, traders said.
American Motors, which received a merger offer from Chrysler, led the active with a gain of 3/4 to 4 1/4.

OVERSEAS FINANCIAL DATA PROVIDED BY REUTERS MONITOR

Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research
TANTUR PUBLIC LECTURE IN ENGLISH
Thursday, March 12, 1987
by Dr. Charles Davis
Professor of Religion, Concordia University, Montreal
TODAY'S CULTURE AND THE MEANING OF BAPTISM
In the Auditorium of the Institute at Tantur, commencing at 4:00 p.m.
Tea will be served after the lecture.
Ample space for car parking. Buses 22 and 30 stop outside the main gate.
The Institute is on the road from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, at the junction with the dual carriageway to Gilo.
mar 12-1987

IMF: Get tough on wages

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economic Reporter
The members of a senior International Monetary Fund delegation visiting Israel told Finance Minister Moshe Nissim in a meeting yesterday that any increase in wages should be followed by a dismissal of workers.

They recommended Israel follow the British example in economic policy, an apparent reference to London's policy of selling off state-owned enterprises, according to a Treasury statement.

The IMF delegation is in Israel to draft the fund's annual report on the Israeli economy. It is due to leave the country at the end of the week, leaving behind an interim report.

The IMF economists told Nissim a policy of market wage restraint should be implemented. They also stressed the importance of keeping government spending within budgetary boundaries. Without such res-

trictive policies Israel may relapse into triple-digit inflation, they said.

Nissim told his guests that the government was determined to apply a policy of strict wage restraint. There will be no wage increases beyond cost-of-living allowances he said.

The finance minister cited the recent strike by hospital workers as an example of the government's determination to pursue a policy of wage restraint. He added that the Treasury was equally determined to keep government expenditure within budgetary ceilings.

Nissim said the Treasury's policies would be based on a wide reform of the capital market and the tax system. He repeated his pledge not to devalue the shekel in the coming months. He also said that there is a consensus among the cabinet ministers that the drive to privatize government corporations should continue.

Four arrests seen in Guinness affair

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — The police this week are expected to issue warrants for the arrests of the top four men in the Guinness shares scandal.

Former chairman Ernest Saunders, U.S. lawyer and former board member Thomas Ward, former finance director Olivier Roux and former merchant banker Roger Seelig faces charges, under the Theft Act, according to senior legal and Whitehall sources.

The offences were allegedly committed during the no-holds-barred battle by Guinness PLC in its 1986 takeover of the Distillers PLC.

Transport prices due to go up 20%

By JONATHAN KARP

TEL AVIV. — Prices for public transportation will go up 20 per cent later this month, the Transport and Finance ministries announced on Sunday. The price hike means urban bus fares will increase to 60 agorot, up from the current 50 agorot.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu told reporters yesterday that he had opposed a Treasury plan to raise the prices by as much as 35 per cent. He added that many improvements in public transportation have been made recently, especially in the

heavily populated Dan region. Two new lines and 30 additional buses would be put into service there this year, Corfu said.

Earlier yesterday Corfu participated in the opening ceremony of a northern by-pass road around Kfar Sava. The road links the eastern and western sections of the city and is designed to divert through traffic — much of which comes from settlements in the West Bank — away from the city centre.

Built as part of the five-year plan to improve traffic flow in the centre

of the country, the new by-pass cost NIS 400,000. The plan calls for an annual investment of \$8 million split between the Transport Ministry, Public Works department, Netivei Ayalon Co. and the municipalities in the area.

On a separate matter, Corfu said there would not be a reduction in the number of examiners in the licensing department. He said he convinced Finance Minister Moshe Nissim that the current level number of examiners did not present a budgetary problem.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:		Turnovers:			
General Share Index	121.06+0.63%	Shares — total	NIS 18,119,000	4.25% fully-linked	Falls to 1%
Non-Bank Index	143.61+0.52%	Arrangement	NIS 2,666,100	80% linked	Slightly falls
Insurance	122.00+0.87%	Non-bank	NIS 22,855,900	Double-linked:	Mixed to 3%
Commerce, Services	138.46+1.70%	Bonds — total	NIS 4,205,500	Dollar-linked:	
Real Estate	136.04+0.46%	Index-linked	NIS 2,787,700	Admon	Mixed to 1%
Industrial	145.36+0.90%	Dollar-linked	NIS 1,407,800	Rimon	Generally rises to 2%
Textiles	137.06+1.26%	Treasury Bills	NIS 14,507,800	For. Curr.	Mixed to 2%
Metals	137.58+0.38%			Gilboa	
Electronics	153.63+1.03%	Share Movements:		Treasury Bills	Mixed to 3%
Chemicals	143.35+1.17%	Advances	212 (219)	(annual yield)	28.25–30.10
Industrial Invest.	182.19+0.52%	of which 5%+	43 (48)	Arrangement yields:	
Investment Cos.	161.90+0.85%	"buyers only"	2 (4)	IDB ord.	17.85%
General Bond Index	110.01+0.20%	Declines	58 (145)	Union 0.1	18.02%
Index-linked Bonds	110.14+0.25%	of which 5%+	5 (5)	Discount A	17.41%
Fully-linked	111.12+0.30%	"sellers only"	0 (1)	Mizrachi r.	17.12%
Partially-linked	108.58+0.17%	Unchanged	124 (116)	Hapoel r.	18.02%
Dollar-linked Bonds	108.40+0.06%	Trading Halt	25 (28)	General A	18.03%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	107.89+0.09%	Bond Market Trends:		Leumi stock	17.75%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	109.28+0.34%	Index-linked:		Fin. Trade 1	17.85%
Long-term 5+ yrs	111.71+0.41%	3% fully-linked	Falls to 1%		

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Our no fault system

FROM the beginning, that is, after Jonathan Pollard was apprehended in November of 1985, it was apparent that there would be two, not one, sets of controversies.

The first would focus on the spy operation itself. Should Israel have jeopardized relations with the U.S. in this way? Jeopardized American Jews? Why was the operation so simplistic, enabling Pollard and his Israeli contacts to be so easily fingered? Who was responsible? Who sanctioned it all? And if not the ministerial level, how come?

The second controversy would focus on the damage-control effort launched by the government following Pollard's discovery. Should Israel have cooperated more fully with the U.S. investigators in the interest of relations with Washington, and at the expense of the individuals implicated in the case? Should it, instead, have stonewalled? Should it have aided rather than seeming to forsake the unfortunate Pollards?

These, and many more, questions arise from each of the two separate stages of the Pollard affair. The first set of questions was indeed asked when Pollard was caught. But then somehow was dropped.

Now after the Pollards' cruel sentencing these questions have emerged again. However, they have become jumbled together with the questions pertinent to the government's damage-control scheme. And that is because the scheme failed. It has led to more, rather than less, damage to our relations with the U.S.

It could be argued that it failed because it was ill-conceived. In seeking, for example, to shield Aluf Mishne Aviem Sella from the investigators, the scheme failed to take into account what Pollard would reveal. And it failed to appreciate that this could lead to more bitter U.S. feelings, a more severe sentence for the Pollards and even greater public and political embarrassment for Israel and the U.S.

All that may be true. But public officials are not immune to mistakes, even, or especially, when they pretend otherwise.

The real difficulty arises when they are not accountable for their mistakes. When no price is paid for bad steering, the passengers on the ship of state get jumpy. How can they be certain that the captains won't cause another collision? And how can other vessels in the waters sail nearby with trust?

The flaw, so often observed, in Israel's political culture is precisely this lack of accountability. It is a cause of bad decisions, and when they occur, magnifies them into public traumas. It leads to incessant recrimination and demands for inquiry commissions, which have become a form of pseudo therapy for a system that cannot correct itself by removing from power those who have exercised it badly.

This, in turn, leads to resistance to such commissions, and when, by force of overwhelming pressure, they are nevertheless established, causes their verdict to become personal and national cataclysms.

Israel, in the generation of its founders, was spared such lurches from one convulsion to another, because the public, the politicians, and the public service, acknowledged, rightly or wrongly, the transcendent authority of Ben-Gurion and a handful of his fellows. The bearers of such authority have long since been absent, but, unfortunately, the system has not changed.

On the contrary, it has hardened and deteriorated. Under the national unity government, accountability has become a politicized taboo. Flawed men hang on to positions of power and flawed decisions are excused because to hold anyone to account would tilt the party equilibrium. This is the case between the parties and within them.

Thus we have a political system that steers itself without a pivot of recognized authority and without a corrective mechanism of accountability. Little wonder that we lurch from crisis to crisis.

We have no vital centre that would brave standing up to the Americans on the Pollard affair or submitting to them, brave cleaning home stables or absolving them. Nor do we have the means for resolving relations with the U.S. by the simple expedient of personal accountability. No cabinet officer has been held to account for the failed spy operation just as no cabinet officer has been held to account for the failed damage-control plan.

Instead we have a system where leaders, fused to their roles and errors, plead innocence or ignorance and seek the public's confidence not by the credibility, but by the incredibility of their assurances.

In such a circumstance, strategy becomes the art of playing for time and tactics the art of ducking.

Unfortunately, statehood and statecraft require a different art.

Hadassah diamond jubilee

THE INVASION of Jerusalem yesterday by 2,000 members of Hadassah and their husbands was a very welcome one. It is to be hoped that the Hadassah example will be emulated by other American organizations.

There have been large Hadassah contingents in Israel before, but the present Mission is different from all its predecessors: those were conventions come here to do business; the 2,000 who have come this time are here for a birthday party, to celebrate the founding of Hadassah by Henrietta Szold at Purim, 1912.

Apart from a Miss Szold herself, there were 12 founding members. Today Hadassah, with 385,000 members in the U.S., is the largest women's volunteer organization in the world. The organization is now extending beyond the frontiers of the U.S.: there are several chapters in Israel, and friends of Hadassah from all parts of the world support the Hadassah hospitals through the Hadassah Medical Relief Association.

In 1913 Hadassah sent two nurses to introduce public health into the country. Today the women are contributing to better health for Israelis by providing new diagnostic and therapeutic wonder tools that have revolutionized medicine. Imaging devices, computers, lasers, instruments like the kidney stone-crushing lithotripter, bone marrow transplants, organ transplants—these have opened new vistas for the modern physician and patient that stagger the imagination.

The trouble is that these tools are all very expensive, some of them costing more than a million dollars. So the need for the support of the Hadassah women is as great as it ever was.

Hadassah's strength is that it is not only a philanthropic organization, making contributions to medicine, education, Youth Aliya and land reclamation. It combines practical work with a vigorous Zionism ideology. Work without ideology would not have captured the women—and men—of America as Hadassah did: ideology without practical work has proved to be very empty for many Zionist movements.

Hadassah has stood firmly at Israel's side whenever there have been times of tension: the women have no problem of dual loyalties, they are firmly convinced that what is good for Israel is good for America, and vice versa. They must be right.

So a happy birthday to Hadassah, and plenty more of the same.

LETTER TO AN AMERICAN FRIEND

Soured promise

Shlomo Avineri

THE POLLARD case is causing unprecedented unease and malaise among American Jews. Why?

I agree with you that we, here in Israel, have to clear up our own mess. There is no doubt that some branches of our intelligence apparatus have run wild and that some very senior officials and politicians will have to pay for the folly and irresponsibility involved in the affair.

As in the Iran-Contra affair in the United States, it appears that both our countries have a penchant for letting cowboys run sensitive intelligence operations. A weak and rather uninformed president in your case, a divided government lacking central control in ours, seem to invite that kind of free-wheeling operators.

But in the Pollard case, something more profound is now surfacing: a degree of nervousness, insecurity and even cringing on the part of the American Jewish community which runs counter to the conventional wisdom of American Jewry feeling free, secure and unmolested in an open and pluralistic society.

Let me not mislead you: some of the responses of American Jewish leaders after Pollard's sentencing remind me of the way in which Jewish leaders in Egypt under Nasser and in Iran under Khomeini ran for cover when members of their respective Jewish communities were caught spying for Israel.

I know these are harsh words: they are nonetheless true. American Jewry has prided itself on being a free community of fiercely proud Jews living in an open society, in which being Jewish was considered as American as apple pie. How many times have American leaders told me that America is not another Exile, that you do not live in *Galut*, than you can aspire to the highest office in the land, that you are not a minority but constitute an integral ingredient of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious tapestry that makes the American matrix such a unique historical experience for Jews.

And what do we see now? A person who happens to be Jewish (isn't this your favourite phrase: "happens to be Jewish?") is caught spying for Israel. You would expect that in a free and open society no guilt by association should be presumed and that nobody, except Pollard himself, should be held responsible for his deeds.

Instead, we see some senior American Jewish leaders falling over each other in condemning Pollard and distancing themselves—and the Jewish community—from him. When did American Jewish leaders lastly pontificate on matters of criminal justice?

Look for yourself: one American Jewish leader says that "Pollard pleaded guilty in an American court to a serious crime. He received due process and a just punishment."

Another states that he is "disturbed" by some feelings of sympathy he finds among fellow Jews for Pollard and says that "there could be no possible justification for Pollard's despicable crime." A third opines that not since the Rosenbergs' trial have American Jews been so severely compromised.

Don't you feel these gentlemen are protesting too much? I, at least, am reminded of some Jewish reactions in France during the Dreyfus affair: "He is guilty—we are not, we are good French patriots."

WHY DO American Jews *qua* Jews have to feel the need to distance themselves from Pollard? Shouldn't they be saying that the fact that one American Jewish person convicted for spying for Israel (or, for that matter, for the Soviet Union) is no skin off their nose—and that's that.

I do not know Colonel North's religious affiliation—but have any of his co-religionists distanced themselves from him? And did any Wasp have to distance himself from Alger Hiss's perjury and presumed spying for the Soviet Union? Why are only Jews defensive and uneasy in such cases?

Yesterday, on the phone from Los Angeles, you told me "the consequences of the Pollard affair will remain with us for the rest of our lives." Is this what the American dream is about—guilt by association, collective responsibility?

I hear American Jews talking about being accused of "dual loyalty." Who, among non-Jews, has accused you of that? Only Jewish people have used this phrase in the context of the Pollard affair—because you, not the non-Jews, somehow feel, deep in your heart, that despite all of your material success and intellectual achievements, you may not be seen by non-Jews as being truly Americans.

This anxiety is deep in your soul, and it is in the soul—and not in external circumstances—that *Galut* resides. *Galut* is ambivalence, alienation, homelessness. When the going is good—when being Jewish and supporting Israel go together with waving the American flag—who would be as stupid as not to wish to have the best of both worlds? But when the going gets tough, then the test arrives of being accepted, of really being equal, of really being proud and not having to look over your shoulder.

When Gore Vidal said some months ago in his vituperative polemic *Commentary* that you are not really Americans, you all recoiled in horror. Today, American Jewish leaders, by their protestations of over-zealous loyalty to the United States at a moment when nobody is

really questioning it, are saying that America in the long run is no different from France and Germany. When you have to over-identify, there is no other proof needed that you think that your non-Jewish neighbours are looking askance at your Americanism. You are condemned by your own protestations of loyalty and flag-waving.

ZIONISM GREW out of the cruel realization that for all of their achievements and successes, when the chips are down Jews in the Diaspora become vulnerable and defenceless, are seen as aliens—and will see themselves as such.

You always told us Israelis that America was different. Of course, it is. But you still feel now as vulnerable as Soviet or Iranian Jews. Of course no one will put you in jail or legislate against you: but you are afraid that Jews will not be able to get responsible positions in your bureaucracy, that Jewish employees in the defence and intelligence branches will be under some kind of handicap, that Jews will be denied access to sensitive positions. One Jewish spy—and look how deep you find yourself in *Galut*.

Don't misunderstand me: in no way am I condoning what Israel did in the Pollard affair. With other Israelis I support the call for an unequivocal investigation into our stupidities and lies, and let heads roll if necessary.

What we did was unforgivable—not because of its impact on American Jews, but because of the consequences for Israel-U.S. relations. Neither is this letter written with *schadenfreude*, despite the fact you may feel that it is. Like all Zionist analyses, it is written with grief and dismay about the ways of the world.

But the truth of the matter is simple: You, in America, are no different from French, German, Polish, Soviet and Egyptian Jews. Your Exile is different—comfortable, padded with success and renown. It is exile nonetheless.

The test of really belonging and real equality is when the going is tough. And when the going gets tough, your leaders reacted like trembling Israelites in the *shet*, not like the proud and mighty citizens of a free democratic society. It is very easy to clamour at elegant wine and cheese parties, for the freedom of Soviet Jews. But you too need to be freed from *Galut* from the inner bond, from what Abba Haim called "servitude within freedom."

You too have to be emancipated from *Galut* and alienation; and for all its achievements and promise, America, it now evidently appears may not be your Promised Land.

Shlomo Avineri is professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry.

READERS' LETTERS

ARYE DULZIN

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Speaking in the name of 1.2 million Sephardim in the Diaspora, we will always be grateful for the visionary wisdom that Arye Dulzin had in helping the Sephardic Educational Centre to develop from its infancy.

Despite his extremely busy schedule, Mr. Dulzin took time out to hear the story that the Sephardim did not have a world educational headquarters and that an attempt was being made to create one to ensure the survival of Sephardic communities of the Diaspora. Mr. Dulzin unlike others, grasped the long-term significance of such an undertaking and supported it through the Joint Education and Pincus Fund.

The Jewish world is in desperate need of committed people that have his intelligence, Jewishness and are able to give priority where it is due. We hope that politics will be left aside and that understanding will prevail so that we may grow from strength to strength as a united Jewish people.

J. NESSIM
President,
Sephardic Educational Centre,
Jerusalem.

THE POLLARD AFFAIR

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — In your editorial ("A messy affair," March 5) you state, as though it were a fact indisputably proven, that "Pollard was indeed a 'rogue operation'.... For it was neither authorized by, nor even known to, Israel's political echelon, amazing as that may seem."

A simpler explanation—also unproven—is that in this, as in similar affairs, the responsible elements in the political echelon did know and now deny it "in the national interest."

One might also point out that if, indeed, the Pollard affair was "a rogue operation" the chief rogue, Rafi Eitan, ought to have faced charges and perhaps a trial, instead of being given—as you correctly state—"a cushy job as chairman of the board of Israel Chemicals, a large government corporation."

Now that's amazing.

MICHAEL ELKINS
Jerusalem.

Sir, — U.S. Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger complains that

Gurdjieff

Ouspensky

Centre

052-574423

ARYE DULZIN

Sir, — Great was my surprise when I found large advertisements in The Jerusalem Post "To Mr. Arye Dulzin." "Stop the unbridled attacks on the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency," ordered by diverse associations of new immigrants, praising the leader for his accomplishments.

It is quite absurd that new immigrants who have to make it to and in Israel despite the Jewish Agency arrogance and unwillingness to help olim, took the initiative in such advertising.

G. LUGASSY
Rehovot.

Sir, — It was interesting to read how the Japhet scandal in Bank Leumi has led to Arye Dulzin's announced departure as the World Zionist Organization's chairman. I only wonder what Mr. Dulzin will receive in severance pay and pension benefits when he leaves his office in January 1988.

Kfar Sava.
PAUL WIENER

AIDS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Why should we not require all persons entering the country to produce an "Aids-Free Certificate," issued by a competent medical authority?

Such a measure would of course be unacceptable to both the tourism and the civil liberties lobbies, but one wonders if they would protest as much at the idea of smallpox vaccination certificates?

Jerusalem.
LEVI BOOKIN

FREE CHOICE FOR SOVIET JEWS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I read with increasing distress about the status of Soviet Jews once they arrive in the U.S.

What is the government trying to achieve by trying to scrap political refugee status? Is it trying to force Soviet Jews to come here? If so, then I am afraid it has to rethink its policy.

The government must wake up to the fact that these people are human beings and, therefore, retain the right to decide for themselves where their final destination is to be.

It must also face the fact that most Soviet Jews leaving Russia are neither religious nor Zionists. They are ordinary people who see capitalism and materialism in neon lights.

If Israel wants these or any other people to come here then it must improve living conditions and standards of living, and it must reduce the bureaucracy that surrounds everything here.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Kfar Hahoshel.

Under the patronage of
H.E. the Ambassador of Norway, Mr. Torleiv Anda

Kristiansand Cathedral Choir

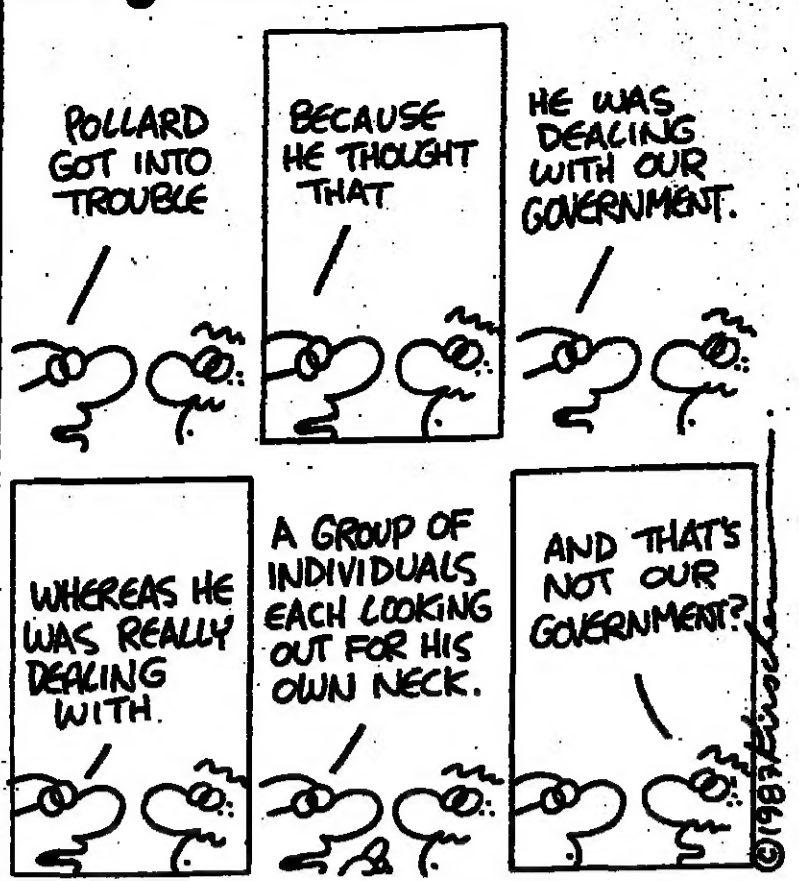
Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra

Conductor: Bjarne Sloegedal
Kjellaug Tesaker — Soprano
Aslaug Juva — Contralto
Kjell Pedersen — Tenor
Christopher Keyte — Baritone

Contact:
Himmelfahrtstheater
J.S. Bach
Hymnen Quinram (Israel premiere)
Bjarne Sloegedal

Tue, March 10 Kibbutz Sherayim, at 8:00 p.m.
Wed, March 11 Kibbutz Yifat, at 8:30 p.m.
Thurs, March 12 Dormition Abbey, Jerusalem, at 8:00 p.m.

Dry Bones



Professional decisions

Yehezkel Dror

THE U.S. and Israeli government suffer from a shared malaise: serious inadequacies in their decision-making apparatus. The Pollard fiasco and the Iranian episode and the inadequate preparations for the Iceland summit meeting. In both countries, top decision-makers did not adequately monitor events and therefore made serious decision mistakes.

Severe incapacities of top decision-makers are congenial to their position, caused by work overloads, dependence on gatekeepers who easily become mindkeepers, and many additional role malformations. Tacitly well recognized the most serious professional disease of rulers: over-optimistic self-images which leads to reckless behaviour. The people at the top tend to loose contact with reality and develop "rulerscraze" which results in increasingly serious errors.

Democratic political controls and a free mass-media help a little, but are not an adequate antidote. Essential are lamps and mirrors for rulers, in the form of professional policy advisers who help these leaders see reality realistically and, more importantly but much more difficult, assist top decision makers to realize their own weaknesses and propensity to err.

Also needed are deliberate decision-making protocols which assure due participation of professional advisers in all decision processes and which restrain leaders from making impulsive choices.

But few rulers have the wisdom of Ulysses who had himself bound against his own irrationalities when approaching the Sirens. Therefore, in most countries, top decision-makers lack adequate professional staffs

while the existing staffs are often excluded from critical decisions.

BOTH THE White House and the offices of Israeli leaders are inadequately supplied with professional policy staffs and lack adequate decision-making protocols. The U.S. president has at his call many think tanks, the Executive Office, the staff of the National Security Council and more. But the inner core of the White House often lacks a semi-permanent staff which serves presidents for long enough to build up a long-range memory and which enjoys a policy-professional standing. Such a standing would enable the staff to stand up to the president when the Boss prefers illusions and gratifying feedback. In Israel the lack of a central professional policy planning staff is even more pronounced, even the minor recommendations of the Agranat Commission to institutionalize an intelligence adviser to the prime minister being ignored.

The United States, as the leader of the free world, must strive for as perfect a top decision-making body as humanly possible. Israel, as a small country with a very demanding ideology, located within a hostile environment, must build up an asymmetric advantage of superior statesmanship. Therefore both countries must redesign the advisory systems supporting their top decision makers.

Shared learning on how to do so may be more important than regrets about past errors. What happened cannot be changed, but unless the leaders of both countries are supplied with adequate lamps and true mirrors, more grievous errors are unavoidable.

The writer is a professor of political science and the director of the Centre for Security Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



WORLD BANK PUBLICATION IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DATA

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K.C. Sivaramakrishnan and Leslie Green

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PRICE: NIS 56.85

To: BOOKS, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Please send me the book(s) indicated below. I enclosed a cheque for the appropriate amount.

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